

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

René González presses fight to return to Cuba

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Profit drive, China rivalry spur Clinton's Africa tour

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton conducted a nine-nation 11-day African tour in early August, aimed at strengthening U.S. investment and Washington's military clout throughout the continent and countering China, which overtook the U.S. as Africa's largest trading partner three years ago.

Clinton was accompanied by a sizable U.S. business delegation, including representatives of major companies like General Electric, Boeing and Walmart, anxious to seal profitable deals. GE last year made \$1.8 billion in revenue from the continent.

She visited Senegal, Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and Benin.

"Africa offers the highest rate of return on foreign direct investment of any developing region in the world," Clinton pitched to a U.S. business forum in Washington, D.C., in mid-June prior to her trip.

In an Aug. 1 speech at the University
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Caterpillar strikers say, 'We have to take a stand'

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

JOLIET, Ill.—On Aug. 1, members of Machinists Local 851 began the fourth month of their strike against Caterpillar here. After overwhelmingly rejecting a union-gutting contract proposal, the workers, who build hydraulic systems for Caterpillar machinery, walked off the job May 1.

Caterpillar bosses are demanding a six-year contract that would freeze wages, double the cost of health insurance, eliminate pensions and give the company the ability to move workers to any shift at their discretion without regard to seniority.

In recent weeks a number of articles on the strike have appeared in the big-business media as the propertied rulers watch the unfolding labor battle with keen interest.

"At Caterpillar, Pressing Labor While Business Booms," was the headline of a July 22 *New York Times* article by Steven Greenhouse. Similar articles appeared in the *Washington*
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'Bosses' assaults, workers' resistance are worldwide'

Socialist presidential candidate speaks in NY, NJ



Militant/Arnold Weissberg

James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, talks with Dillon St. Claire and Junita Reed while campaigning in Harlem neighborhood in New York, Aug. 11.

BY REBECCA WILLIAMSON

NEW YORK—James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, was the featured speaker Aug. 11 at a meeting celebrating the successful completion of the petitioning drive here to get SWP candidate Deborah Liatos on the ballot in the 13th Congressional District.

For three weeks supporters of the campaign fanned out across Harlem and Washington Heights in Manhattan and a portion of the Bronx

and went well over their goal of 6,000, collecting 6,658 signatures.

Joining Harris was Callie Miaoulis, SWP candidate for the Nebraska Legislature in the 29th District; Róger Calero, SWP candidate for Senate from New York; and César Sanchez, one of the party's electors in New Jersey.

The celebration was part of a week-end visit to the area that included a meeting in Garfield, N.J., where
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Tens of thousands of autoworkers strike Hyundai in South Korea

BY SETH GALINSKY

Some 43,000 workers in South Korea at Hyundai Motor Co. began a series of two- to four-hour strikes Aug. 8 in face of an open union-bust-

ing campaign, especially at plants that provide parts to the auto giant.

Workers are demanding that temporary workers be made permanent, a wage increase and an end to graveyard shifts, which workers say are a health hazard.

Workers at GM plants in South Korea are organizing similar rolling work stoppages.

Hyundai, which also owns Kia Motors Corp., is the fifth-largest automaker in the world. Autoworkers in South Korea have a long history of militant action, including going on strike against Hyundai every year from 1987 to 2008. As a result they are among the best paid workers in the country.

"Emboldened by the absence of strikes for the past three years, the company is ignoring our demands," the Korean Metal Workers Union said in a statement.

"Autoworkers usually work 10 hours a day six days a week and they are on a different shift every week," Hyewon Chong,
Continued on page 9



Seong joon Cho/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Strike action at Hyundai in Ulsan, South Korea, July 13. Autoworkers are demanding higher wages, end to night shift work and permanent hiring of temporary workers.

Socialist Party gov't in France scapegoats Roma, immigrants

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Barely three months after being elected president of France, Socialist Party leader François Hollande is firmly engaged in a law and order campaign aimed at scapegoating im-

migrant workers for the problems facing the French economy.

From Aug. 9 to 14, the French police expelled some 450 Roma from encampments in a series of cities across the country, including Paris. Some 240 were put on a charter flight in Lyons and sent back to Romania, their country of origin.

Roma are an oppressed national-
Continued on page 9

Richmond, Calif., residents confront Chevron over fire at refinery

BY JOEL BRITTON

RICHMOND, Calif.—Hundreds of angry workers attended a meeting at Richmond Memorial Auditorium organized by Chevron management Aug. 7, one day after a fire at the company's large refinery covered this city and nearby areas in the San Francisco Bay Area with a huge plume of black smoke.

"You are killing us!" resident
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W. Virginia Steelworkers strike against concessions

BY TOM NICHOLS
AND LINDA JOYCE

RAVENSWOOD, W.Va.—Nearly 700 workers went on strike here Aug. 5 against Constellium Rolled Products, a major manufacturer of aluminum used in airplanes and automobiles. At the end of July members of United Steelworkers Local 5668 voted 604-20 to reject the company’s contract offer, largely because of its proposal to increase the cost of medical insurance.

Jason Miller, local union president, told the *Militant* Aug. 12 that workers wanted the union bargaining committee to hold the line on health care costs. Their slogan is “Keep your hands off our health care!”

Under the current plan workers are responsible for copays. There is no vision care and dental coverage “is so minimal as to be nonexistent,” Miller said. Steelworkers note that the proposed increase in insurance costs would “more than wipe out” the small wage increase the company offered. Workers are currently paid on average \$19 an hour.

Miller added that the company also wants to increase its use of outside contractors, which the union opposes.

From 1990 to 1992 workers at the Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. complex here were locked out for 20 months. Through their fight for a contract they won solidarity from other workers in the U.S. and Europe—including workers on strike against the *Daily News* in New York City—turning the lockout into a successful strike.

Some of the workers on the picket line are veterans of that fight, but most are

younger and on strike for the first time. In May 2011, Constellium bought the Alcan Rolled Products plant, which was part of the Ravenswood complex. The rest of the complex is now Century Aluminum, which closed down in 2009 and is seeking to reopen. Local 5778 organizes both plants as well as other workplaces in the area.

Since the early 1990s workers have given up wages to keep their health care coverage, Miller said, and prided themselves in maintaining health benefits.

“This is our chance to let everyone know that these corporations are trying to attack the working man,” continued Miller, who works at the Century plant. “They keep inching at us to give up a little and then a little more and soon we will be working for nothing. The most important thing is that we take a stand against the big companies, showing them that the workers are the ones making the money for them.”



Militant/Linda Joyce

United Steelworkers Local 5668 members picket in Ravenswood, W.Va., Aug. 12. Nearly 700 workers went on strike at Constellium Rolled Products Aug. 5 over increased medical costs.

Constellium has accused union members of placing jack rocks on the road, puncturing the tires of trucks entering or leaving the mill. But Randy Moore, a union negotiator, told the *Charleston Daily Mail* Aug. 9 that it’s the company guards that are causing problems, vid-

eotaping picket lines and insulting and harassing picketers.

State police arrested two union members Aug. 9 accusing them of felony destruction of property.

Constellium did not return calls from the *Militant* requesting comments.

UK: relatives battle cop killings of black men

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON—Two recent events here highlight the routine brutality and cover-up methods of the police.

On Aug. 6, a memorial service was held for Mark Duggan, a 29-year-old shot and killed by police in August 2011, in Tottenham, north London. Five days earlier, a coroner’s inquest jury ruled that cops used an “unsuitable level of force” in the 2008 death of Sean Rigg.

The families of Duggan and Rigg, both of whom are black, have been at

the forefront of these and other fights against killings by police.

A specialist firearms cop killed Duggan as a police unit on gun crimes in the black community tried to arrest him. The Independent Police Complaints Commission, the government body investigating the case, has admitted it “misled” the media into reporting Duggan had fired at the cops. He did no such thing. Cops then tried to claim he was carrying a loaded gun, but the weapon they produced has no trace of Duggan’s DNA, fingerprints or blood.

No less than 31 cops were present at the shooting; all have so far refused to be interviewed by the IPCC.

The killing sparked widespread unrest here, particularly in Tottenham, as well as other cities across the country.

“It’s a year since Mark was murdered” said Carole Duggan, his aunt, speaking at the memorial service. “We are still no closer to finding out the truth of what happened.” An inquest into the death is not scheduled until early next year.

The Aug. 1 jury verdict implicating cops in the death of Sean Rigg, a

40-year-old who suffered from schizophrenia, was the result of a four-year-long campaign by Rigg’s family to force some of the facts to light against a wall of obstruction and lies.

In August 2008, staff at a hostel where Rigg lived called police when he was experiencing a psychotic episode. The cops brutally “hog-tied” Rigg for eight minutes. They forced his face down on the ground with his legs pulled up to his buttocks, a potentially fatal procedure.

Rigg was dumped in a police van and taken to Brixton police station instead of a hospital. He died half naked on a concrete floor after losing consciousness. None of the police “called an ambulance or got him a blanket,” despite Rigg’s obvious injuries, reported the *Independent*.

Following the verdict, Marcia Rigg, one of Sean’s sisters, read a statement on behalf of the family calling for “prosecution of those responsible for Sean’s death” and “an urgent public inquiry to establish why the system in this country consistently fails to deliver justice to the many families whose loved ones have died in police custody.”

THE MILITANT

Backing the fights of workers behind bars

Inmates in several prisons around the U.S. have carried out hunger strikes to protest solitary confinement and the denial of basic rights. The ‘Militant’ covers these struggles and makes the paper available to prisoners so they can follow the working class struggle worldwide.

Bruce Dixon
July 16 protest outside offices of Georgia Department of Corrections in Forsyth.

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SWP presidential ticket on ballot in Louisiana

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

BATON ROUGE, La.—The Socialist Workers Party won Louisiana ballot status for its presidential ticket Aug. 8 as it filed its slate of eight electors and paid the required filing fee of \$500. Commissioner of Elections Angie Rogers told the press that the SWP was the first in the state to qualify for the ballot.

The New Orleans *Times-Picayune* quoted SWP vice presidential candidate Maura DeLuca, who filed for the party along with at-large elector Eloise Williams, saying that “the party will be on the ballot in at least seven other states, including Washington, New Jersey, Iowa and Florida, and expects to be written in on ballots in other states.”

At a press conference on the steps of the state Capitol, Williams told reporters, “We have to stand up for ourselves” because the “politicians and their police all organize against working people.”

Williams, a life-long fighter for civil rights from the Algiers section of New Orleans, has organized and participated in dozens of protests against police brutality and other attacks.

“My grandson is in jail for no good reason,” she said. “Like other young African-American men here he has been harassed by the police. He was stopped on the excuse of a license plate light being out and has been locked up in

jail since March.”

The Baton Rouge *Advocate* noted that “Socialist Workers Party presidential nominee is James Harris, a trade unionist who ran in 1996 and 2000,” and that vice presidential candidate Maura DeLuca was campaigning throughout the state. ““We are trying to give a voice to the struggles of the working people,” said DeLuca, who worked as a welder at Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing in Lincoln, Neb.,” the paper wrote.

“That is us too,” one reporter responded when DeLuca mentioned that bosses now demand workers do the job they previously employed two, three or more workers to do.

“One of the oldest papers here, the *Times-Picayune*, is laying off workers,” he said, “going to only three days a week.”

“So you want a public works program,” another reporter said. “Would that be like the WPA?” referring to the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s.

“No,” DeLuca said. “We have seen enough ‘programs.’ We are against big government bureaucracies that invade our lives.”

“I am talking about federal funding,” she explained. “We need to be able to put millions to work at union wages. Constructing schools, roads, hospitals, child care centers—all those things that are being cut back.”



Militant/Jacque Henderson

Eloise Williams, Socialist Workers Party elector in Louisiana and fighter against police brutality, receives notice party is on ballot there Aug. 8. In background are Maura DeLuca, SWP vice presidential candidate, and Steve Warshell, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from Texas.



David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for 3rd C.D. in Iowa, speaks Aug. 14 at Iowa State Fair. “It’s a crisis of the capitalist system, it’s worldwide and it’s only in its beginning,” he said. Rosenfeld distanced himself from those who attempted to disrupt Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan’s speech the previous day. “Shouting down those you disagree with will ultimately undermine our ability to defend our free speech rights.”

Harris in NY: ‘Bosses’ assaults, workers’ resistance worldwide

Continued from front page

Harris met with activists involved in the fight against police brutality and the cop killing of 19-year-old Malik Williams there. Also in attendance were workers from the nearby Crestron electrical assembly plant.

“The capitalist crisis, attacks by bosses, and workers’ resistance are worldwide phenomena,” Harris said at the New York meeting. “Everywhere they are driven to attack us in an effort to become more competitive with their rivals inside each country and internationally.

“They have no choice,” he added, “It is the very nature of capitalism—compete or die, and the only thing they know to help them is to make us pay.

“You can see this in Hillary Clinton’s trip to Africa over the past week,”

Harris continued. “She took a bunch of top corporate bosses, looking to push China aside and win investments and manufacturing contracts. And she went to build up the U.S. military in the region. Washington says this is to combat ‘terrorism,’ but down the road its real goal is to protect U.S. markets against all rivals.”

Harris also drew out a number of other political points that socialist workers have been discussing with workers on strike or battling lockouts, fighting back against police brutality, and farmers facing drought conditions and the threat of foreclosure.

“The one thing you’ll notice about our campaign is that it goes to these struggles because that is where workers are learning to think; they begin to learn

about the cops, the politicians, and they learn about their fellow workers, look at them differently, begin to trust each other, and get an inkling of what a workers and farmers government can be.”

Miaoulis described her experiences talking to workers at the Kawasaki plant in Lincoln, Neb., where she worked. One co-worker explained how he was coming to view U.S. politics. “It’s like we’re on this bus, and every four years we know something is wrong but we just change the driver,” he said. “But we need to change the road!”

Socialist Workers candidates campaign against Democrats, Republicans, all the capitalist parties. Both the Democratic Party ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden as well as the Republican Party ticket of Mitt Romney and his newly announced vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan are appealing to win over working people. Both get a hearing. One says we have too much “big government” that interferes in workers’ lives, and the other says you need more government to take care of you. Both say they have a plan to improve the economy, while both work to strengthen the bosses’ attacks on working people.

A meeting for Harris hosted by United Residents of Garfield Engaging Neighborhood Transformation in New Jersey the next day drew nine people. Harris was joined by Calero. The wide-ranging discussion included the role and function of the police under the capitalist system, how to combat anti-social behavior like crime, the job crisis, immigration, and what lessons workers can draw from the Civil Rights movement and the Cuban Revolution.

Shirley Williams, mother of Malik Williams, who was gunned down by

cops last December, and Miguel Reyes de Leon, another leader of the fight to get the cops who killed Malik prosecuted, took part.

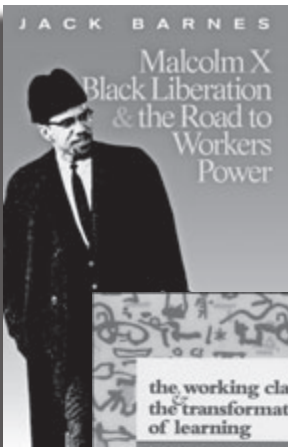
“I understand there is no solution to crime under capitalism and more cops in the streets are not the solution to it,” de Leon said after the discussion had gone on a while. “So what are we supposed to do? Police ourselves?”

“I grew up in Nicaragua under the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship,” Calero said. “His National Guard and the police would come into the neighborhoods and pick you up for no reason and beat you. Many were killed. We grew up hating them. There were popular struggles going on at that time—peasants fighting for land, strikes, student protests—that ultimately grew into a massive popular uprising that overthrew Somoza and established a workers and farmers government.

“We were very young and not politically involved, but when the popular insurrection developed, we saw it as an opportunity to get rid of his hated guards, and we joined the fight,” Calero explained. “As the insurrection spread, we armed ourselves any way we could to defend the neighborhoods under our control against the National Guard and Somoza’s henchmen. There was no looting. We organized to feed and look after each other. As the dictatorship crumbled and its army and police were smashed, a new police and army were born out of the people itself.

“This was possible because of the solidarity that grew with the revolutionary struggle to build a different kind of society,” Calero said. “This can’t be done living under capitalism. But as we fight together against capitalist injustice, we move in this direction.”

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Labor rally in Philadelphia protests attacks on workers

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA—Tens of thousands of trade unionists and other workers from Maine to Ohio, Boston to Louisville, demonstrated here Aug. 11 at a “Workers Stand for America” rally sponsored by the AFL-CIO.

They came to protest attacks against workers being carried out by the bosses and the city, state and federal governments, including by the Obama administration.

At the same time, one of the central purposes of the event was to garner support for the Barack Obama election campaign. Speaking from the platform, Democratic Party National Committee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz told workers their problems would get much worse if Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his newly announced running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan, were to get elected.

Hundreds of union locals participated, including those from the Teamsters, Transport Workers Union, United Steelworkers, Communications Workers of America and the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers.

There was a large presence from building trades locals of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Sheet Metal Workers, Laborers International Union, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, and others.

“Our members have been out of work and they have been stripping us of any rights that workers have won,” Roxy Mejia, a member of the Painters and Allied Trades union, told the *Militant*.

One of the reasons for the rally was to protest the location of the 2012 Democratic National Convention in North Carolina, a right-to-work state, according to Richard Trumka, the president of the AFL-CIO, who spoke at the rally.

Ed Good, a member of the Utility Workers of America, told NBC-10, “At times we feel both political parties have dropped the ball representing working families. I think that’s what this rally is about.”

Before the event began, more than 1,000 Verizon workers, who are members of the CWA or IBEW, held a spirited demonstration at Verizon’s main offices here and then marched to the rally site. Some 45,000 Verizon workers in the Northeast have been working without a contract since they ended a two-

week strike in August 2011.

“The companies want to tear up the union contracts and lower wages,” Michael Neggie, a Verizon worker from New York, told the *Militant*. “Big business saw that Obama wasn’t standing up for working people and is making its moves.”

Mario Ciardelli, business representative for IBEW Local 683 in Columbus, Ohio, told the *Militant* that the local has twice sent contributions to the 1,300 sugar workers in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota who have been locked out by American Crystal Sugar for more than a year. “I am so proud of them standing for what they believe in,” he said. “We want to do more to help. Some of these workers can’t even get unemployment compensation.”

Another component of the AFL-CIO rally was U.S. nationalism. The rally’s theme was “Stand for America.”

“Exporting jobs only undercuts the middle class,” said one member of CWA



Militant/Janet Post

Verizon workers march to join AFL-CIO protest after rally outside company headquarters in Philadelphia, Aug. 11. Some 45,000 Verizon workers have been without contract for a year.

Local 13000 who carried a sign reading, “Keep Verizon Jobs in America.”

“They are giving us tools made in China,” said Joe Monroe of IBEW Local 466 in Charleston, W.Va. “If they didn’t import so much, we’d be doing better here.”

Juan Lopez, a member of Steamfitters

Local 638 in New York City, expressed another view. “We have to stop them from separating us country by country. These politicians are in a different world,” he said.

“It is also important for our union to have members of different nationalities,” Lopez added.

Richmond, Calif., residents confront Chevron

Continued from front page

Marilyn Branford shouted out to the refinery’s general manager, Nigel Hearne, at the meeting. Dozens lined up to ask questions and challenge Hearne’s claim that for Chevron’s management “nothing is more important than safety.”

Despite persistent questioning, the panel, which included city and county officials, refused to answer a key question on everyone’s mind. What was the chemical composition and danger to health of the cloud of smoke that rose and spread?

Panelist Dr. Wendel Brunner announced that 949 residents had so far gone to hospital emergency rooms after breathing the smoke. By Aug. 11, this figure had risen to 5,763.

The Richmond refinery has been the site of a series of fires and explosions over the last 25 years.

Many area residents at the meeting denounced the official warning system of sirens and telephone notification as coming too late, in many cases after residents had already seen the smoke or had received warning calls from friends or family. Some called for “Chevron out of Richmond.” Others argued for putting pressure on the company to make its operations safer.

Response by United Steelworkers

While few details of what caused the fire were given at the meeting, the truth began to come out when Kim Nibarger, a health and safety specialist

for the United Steelworkers, the union representing some 600 refinery workers at Chevron, told reporters about his discussions with workers there. He explained that a couple of hours went by after the leak that caused the fire was discovered, with company officials in charge hoping to fix it without having to shut down the crude processing unit and lose production.

“When you have hydrocarbons outside the pipe, you are no longer running at a normal condition,” Nibarger said. “It’s time to shut the thing off and fix it, not to try to figure out a way around it.”

“A large number of workers were engulfed in the vapor cloud,” the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, which is investigating the fire, announced Aug. 11. “Workers might have been killed or severely injured, had they not escaped the cloud as the release rate escalated and the cloud ignited, shortly thereafter.”

The Associated Press reports that the Chemical Safety Board investigators are “focusing on possible corrosion in a decades-old pipe the company inspected late last year but did not replace.”

The area surrounding the refinery is made up of working-class, predominantly Black and Latino, neighborhoods.

Leobardo Anaya, one of hundreds on line to apply for compensation from Chevron for medical expenses and property damage from the smoke and chemicals, told the *Militant* he was at his job at a distribution center when he looked up and saw the sky turn black. A coworker who suffers from asthma was taken to the hospital after she began to gasp for air. “We need to get together, the whole community, and fight this,” he said.

UPS worker Maria Montano said she went to the hospital after experiencing nausea, headaches and irritated eyes.

“What worries me,” said Verna, a nurse who declined to give her last name, “is Chevron is requiring that people report their medical expenses right away. But what if symptoms show up later?”

Betsey Stone contributed to this article.

‘Union struggles important to fight for safety’



Militant/Eric Simpson

RICHMOND, Calif.—“This is not just a Chevron problem. Corporations across the country are undermining safety in order to make more profits,” Gerardo Sánchez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California, told Channel 14, a Spanish-language TV station, Aug. 11.

Sánchez was talking to workers waiting in line seeking compensation from Chevron for medical and property damage caused by an Aug. 6 fire at the company’s Richmond refinery.

“Union struggles against the bosses’ productivity drive are an important part of the fight for safety today and will help pave the way for bigger struggles tomorrow,” Sánchez said.

—JOEL BRITTON

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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Unite Workers, Build Movement to Transform Society. Speaker: Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president. Sun., Aug. 26., 4 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

Hotel workers in Quebec fight bosses' concession demands

MONTREAL—"We had a big crowd this morning. People went in and got people off the floors," Glen Arseneault told the *Militant*, while picketing the Hilton Bonaventure downtown here Aug. 12. More than one-third of the 210 union members walked the line during the 12-hour strike. Locked-out hotel workers from the nearby Hyatt Regency came over to join in and enjoy a special brunch. Workers locked out by Holiday Inn Select Sinomonde since Aug. 5 also participated.

The Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) representing 5,500 hotel workers across Quebec is currently conducting coordinated negotiations with management in 35 hotels.

On Aug. 9 the CSN announced that 108 union members at the hotel Château Cartier in Gatineau (near Ottawa) will be voting on a tentative agreement that reinforces protection against part-time work and loss of jobs to so-called green programs. Under these programs, management suggests that customers choose not to have their towels and sheets changed every day, for example, which is used to cut work hours and eliminate jobs, picketers told the *Militant*.

Maintaining full-time work positions and increasing employer contributions to pensions are two of the union's cen-

tral demands.

Donald Agostino, a porter/bellman, said that since the U.S. economic downturn tips have dropped from a daily average of about \$70 to \$20.

"We fought for eight years to get rid of four-hour split shifts. Now, they want to go back eight years. We can't have that," Agostino told the *Militant*.

"Before the strike we were all in a dog-eat-dog situation," Jacob Gerow, a bar aide, told the *Militant* as he picketed the Hyatt Regency Aug. 8. "Now we are starting to know each other because we are all together in this fight."

—Katy LeRougetel

Nursing home workers into 2nd month of strike in Connecticut

STAMFORD, Conn.—"I never knew what the union was until I started working here," Alicia Labrosciano told the *Militant* Aug. 12. She is one of some 700 nursing home workers on strike at five HealthBridge facilities around Connecticut. The strikers, members of Service Employees International Union District 1199, picket outside the Stamford Long Ridge nursing home every day from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Passing drivers often honk their horns in support of the striking workers, who include nurses, nurses' assistants, laundry, dietary, housekeeping



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Nursing home workers, who have been on strike since July 3 against five HealthBridge facilities in Connecticut, picket in front of Long Ridge nursing home in Stamford Aug. 12.

and other staff.

The strike began July 3 after the union rejected the company's "last, best and final offer." The bosses then broke off negotiations and unilaterally implemented their offer—cutting working hours by eliminating a paid lunch, slashing vacation and sick time, cutting pensions, and raising health premiums to \$8,000 a year for many employees.

The nursing homes continue to operate with temporary workers.

"The union has resorted to calling a strike because it failed to pressure the affiliated Health Care Centers to accept unrealistic contract proposals any other way," the company said in a press statement released the day the strike began.

—Harry D'Agostino

After monthlong strike, Houston janitors ratify new contract

HOUSTON—Members of Service Employees International Union Local 1 voted unanimously Aug. 11 to ratify a contract that would increase most members' wages by \$1 over a four-year period.

About 400 janitors, among the 3,200 covered by the union contract, walked off their jobs July 10, striking seven Houston area cleaning contractors. The

new agreement was negotiated with six of the seven companies that employ union janitors.

Guillermina Carreon, a union janitor, told the *Militant* that the fight continued at the seventh company. "Pritchard janitors are still in struggle. We'll support them until they win," he said.

The contract will increase workers' pay from \$8.35 to \$9.35 an hour with raises of 25 cents per hour for each year of the contract. "We wanted \$2 but we did get \$1. That's good," SEIU member Edilia Bastardo explained. "What we did was very important, because we won something."

"I think this is a step to establishing the union," Antonio Vargas, a janitor for 12 years in the Houston area, said. "It wasn't long ago that we were little better than slaves. I knew people fired for drinking water at work, and then the boss would pocket their pay and make us do the extra work. We still have a long way to go, but now, with the union, that is possible."

Union representatives said they agreed to lower pay of \$7.25 an hour for workers in smaller buildings of less than 200,000 square feet, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

—Steve Warshell

Cat strikers 'take a stand'

Continued from front page

Post, *Wall Street Journal* and the *Guardian*, published in the United Kingdom.

"Caterpillar is trying to pioneer new territory, seeking steep concessions from its workers even when business is booming," Greenhouse wrote. "The showdown, which has no end in sight, is being closely watched by corporations and unions across the country because it involves two often uncompromising antagonists—Caterpillar and the International Association of Machinists—that have figured in many high-stakes labor battles."

"Greed,' might be the moralist response," Michael Paarlberg wrote in the *Guardian*, asking what drives Caterpillar's assault on its workers, "capital accumulation' the Marxist one."

Owners of other companies have been taking similar measures, driving amid increasingly cutthroat competition for profits worldwide.

What these articles downplay, or omit entirely, is the resistance and solidarity the workers are receiving.

"What is being stated about us is unfair. We only want to keep what we've got and Caterpillar is trying to take everything away," striker Bruce Boaz told the *Militant*. He has worked as an assembler at the plant for 39 years. "Everyone is looking at this across the U.S. It will affect all the unions in the country. If Caterpillar can do this it will set a precedent."

On Aug. 7, a delegation from the Service Employees International Union Health Care Illinois and Indiana, representing some 91,000 health care and child care providers, visited the picket line and contributed a check for \$25,000.

The strikers continue to receive donations to their food pantry organized by the Teamsters, United Auto Workers locals and others. Delegations and indi-

viduals from union locals and working people from the area regularly visit the picket line.

The widespread support for the strike and disdain for Caterpillar's assault as it rakes in massive profits resulted in some unusual contributions. On Aug. 10 Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn visited the picket line and donated \$10,000 from his campaign fund.

"People are tired of this," Marion Modesitt, a picket captain, told the *Militant*. "We have to take a stand."

Send letters of solidarity and contributions to IAM Local Lodge 851, 23157 S. Thomas Dillon Dr., Ste. B, Channahon, IL 60410.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 28, 1987

MONTREAL—For more than two weeks in July the Canadian government illegally detained 174 Sikhs from India seeking refugee status. They were kept in a military barracks in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Held incommunicado in virtual concentration camp conditions they were branded as suspected terrorists.

On June 5 the Quebec Provincial Police arrested three leaders of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) on trumped-up criminal charges.

The attacks against the Sikhs and the CSN are part of the most far-reaching offensive against democratic and trade union rights in Canada since World War II.

The brutal treatment of the Sikhs is part of a campaign by Canada's ruling rich to convince working people in Canada that people fleeing from repressive regimes and severe economic hardship "steal Canadian jobs."



August 27, 1962

William Worthy, noted Negro journalist, was convicted of the crime of re-entering the United States, his native land, without a passport after a two-hour trial in Miami on Aug. 8.

The trial's shortness was because Worthy does not deny the fact on which the precedent-setting charge is based, namely, that he re-entered the U.S. from Cuba without a passport.

Immediately after Judge Emmett Cheate pronounced the verdict of guilty, Worthy's attorneys announced an appeal. Sentencing was deferred, probably until mid-September, and the defendant was continued in the \$5,000 bail set earlier.

"If at any time in the past five years I had been willing to go along with a State Department deal on passport renewal," the veteran newsman declared after the trial, "I would not stand convicted now of coming home to the land of my birth 'without bearing a valid passport.'"



August 28, 1937

When Japanese imperialism moved into North China six weeks ago, Gen. Sun Cheh-yuan, the Nanking Government's representative in Peiping, unconditionally accepted all the conditions posed by the invaders. He agreed to the withdrawal of all Chinese forces from the Peiping Tientsin area and forced some of the units under his command to evacuate their positions.

The resistance of the 29th army soldiers to the orders of their own commanders and the revolt of the supposedly pro-Japanese Chinese militia at Tungchow, however, convinced the Japanese imperialists that they could not reliably depend on any Chinese forces. So they moved in with men, planes and tanks and took over Peiping and Tientsin themselves. The soldiers of the 29th army put up an heroic but futile resistance. They were smashed by the enemy in a week.

René González, 1 of Cuban 5, presses fight to return to Cuba

US gov't discloses 2010 prison visit by wife, Olga Salanueva

BY LOUIS MARTIN
AND DOUG NELSON

Recently released court documents concerning requests by Cuban revolutionary René González to return to his country now that he has served his prison term in the U.S. illustrate once again the determination of Washington to impose the highest possible price on the men and women of Cuba who have made and continue to defend a socialist revolution 90 miles from U.S. shores.

An international campaign is fighting to free González and his four comrades—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero and Fernando González—known internationally as the Cuban Five.

The five were living and working in southern Florida where, at the request of Cuban security services, they monitored activities by armed Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups with a long record of violent attacks on Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution, and kept Havana informed.

After “stealing” a crop-duster plane in Cuba and ostensibly defecting to the U.S. in December 1990, González was welcomed into counterrevolutionary circles and integrated into paramilitary groups dedicated to the overthrow of the Cuban Revolution, a goal shared by Washington.

González became a pilot in Brothers to the Rescue, an organization established in 1991 by CIA-trained operative José Basulto. In the mid-1990s the group began organizing flights penetrating Cuban airspace and designed to provoke a Cuban response, calculating that might trigger a military confrontation with Washington.

Despite repeated warnings from Havana that the hostile planes would not continue with impunity, the U.S. government did nothing to stop them. In January 1996 a Brothers to the Rescue operation dropped counterrevolutionary propaganda on the island. The following month, after repeated warnings to turn back, Cuban fighter jets shot down two of the group's planes that had once again entered Cuban airspace.

The Cuban Five were arrested in FBI raids in September 1998 and framed

up on various conspiracy charges.

The most serious were the charges brought against Hernández, who led the group. He was convicted of conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information, otherwise referred to as “espionage,” and conspiracy to murder and sentenced to two life terms plus 15 years. The murder conspiracy charge was added based on his supposed role in the Cuban government's decision to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity by shooting down the Brothers to the Rescue's intruding aircraft.

René González was convicted of failure to register as a foreign agent and conspiracy to act as the unregistered agent of a foreign government. He was sentenced to consecutive terms of 10 years and five years. Like the rest of the five revolutionaries he received the maximum penalty.

After 13 years in prison, René González was released Oct. 7, 2011. He has since been forced to remain in the U.S., serving a three-year term of “supervised release.”

In February 2011 attorneys for González filed an initial request that he be allowed to return to Cuba upon his release. The motion was rejected in September as “premature” by U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard, the original trial judge.

González's June 22 request

On June 22 González's attorney, Philip Horowitz, renewed the request. In July the government responded and González's attorneys replied.

In the case of a foreign national, “deportation is often a condition of supervised release,” the request pointed out. González is both a Cuban and a U.S. citizen. Born in Chicago, he moved with his parents to Cuba when he was five in 1961.

The government contends that because he holds U.S. citizenship, González should serve his supervised release in the U.S. It has rejected offers by González to renounce his U.S. citizenship if he is allowed to return to Cuba.

Forcing González to remain in the U.S. runs counter to the purported purpose of supervised release “to fa-



Bill Hackwell

René González, one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up by Washington for their work to keep Cuban government informed of activities of armed counterrevolutionaries in Florida, following release from prison in October 2011. In arguing against letting him return to Cuba while on parole, government attorneys expressed view that González shows himself to be “unrepentant” and has insisted “on right to continue to improve the world as he sees fit.”

cilitate and oversee the re-entry of a recently incarcerated defendant into the community,” the request points out. It continues to isolate him from his family, especially. This has been part of the government's attempt to maximize punishment of the five from the very beginning because they could not break them. González's wife, Olga Salanueva, their two daughters and his parents all live in Cuba.

In 2000, the U.S. government deported Salanueva to bring pretrial pressure on González and then denied her a visa to visit him in prison for 10 years.

The recent court documents for the first time make public the fact that Salanueva was allowed to return to the U.S. to visit González in prison on one occasion—in November 2010, though “under the most burdensome conditions.”

While Salanueva “was permitted to travel with her children, they were kept separated during her visit,” states the June 22 filing. “Olga was confined to a hotel under armed guard, and was able to see her husband briefly only before being sent back to Cuba.”

“The brief visit was more traumatic than normal,” stated defense attorney Richard Klugh in an email response to questions from the *Militant*.

The visit was permitted as part of a “confidential diplomatic accommodation” between the U.S. and Cuban governments “in exchange for a family visit of an American prisoner being held in Cuba,” explained a subsequent July 30 reply filed on behalf of González.

The reply noted that attorneys for the U.S. government “violated the agreement between the two countries to keep this matter private,” by revealing in a March 2011 court document that a visit had taken place.

The June 22 request on behalf of González also notes that being forced to reside in Florida places him in danger of reprisal by forces hostile to the Cuban Revolution and points out that González has complied with all his parole conditions since his release.

U.S. gov't asks court to reject motion

In its July 16 response, the government asked the court to reject González's request to serve out his

term of supervised release in Cuba.

Among the government's chief arguments is the fact that González was “resolutely and expressly unrepentant during and following his trial.” In its brief, the government twice quoted from what they refer to as González's “vitriolic sentencing statement, and his explicit insistence on the right to continue to improve the world as he sees fit.”

“I can only feel proud to be here and I can only thank the prosecutors for giving me this opportunity to confirm that I am on the right path and that the world still has a lot of room left for improvement,” González said at his sentencing on Dec. 14, 2001. “I would like to believe you will understand why I have no reason to be remorseful.”

Since their convictions, the five Cuban revolutionaries have tirelessly explained that they acted to defend Cuba's socialist revolution—a revolutionary struggle in which workers and farmers took state power out of the hands of the U.S.-backed capitalist ruling class, and to this day use that power to defend the interests of the toilers. They carried out work they are both proud of and would do again.

The U.S. government's brief also points to what it characterizes as the “seriousness of González's crimes.” This includes, the brief said, “using his status as a commercial airplane pilot to penetrate and report on activity in South Florida [of] organizations the Government of Cuba perceived

Continued on page 7

Canada labor federation backs Cuban Five

The following letter was sent July 9 by Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, the largest union organization in Canada.

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of 3.3 million members of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), I am writing to protest the continued imprisonment of the Cuban 5 and to ask you to intervene so as to procure their release from prison and be allowed to return to their families in Cuba. ...

These men were charged with multiple offences including conspiracy to commit espionage. In truth, they were in the United States unarmed and never posed a threat of any kind to U.S. national security. They were in the United States to monitor the activities of Cuban exiles who, operating from bases in Miami, were planning violent actions against innocent people in Cuba. In fact they were trying to prevent more brutal acts against their country and save innocent lives.

The continued incarceration of these Cuban patriots is morally indefensible. I urge you to exercise the power of your office and grant a pardon to the Cuban Five, allowing them to return to their families in Cuba.

In solidarity,
Kenneth V. Georgetti
President



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Arnaldo Barrón: ‘revolutionary combatant of the old vanguard’

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Arnaldo Barrón, a founding leader in New York of the July 26 Movement, was honored in Havana, Cuba, July 24 for his decades-long record before and after the 1959 victory of the Cuban Revolution. Barrón, 88, was awarded the Friendship Medal by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP).

“Barrón is a Cuban revolutionary combatant of the old vanguard,” said Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly, in awarding him the medal.

The ceremony was held at ICAP’s national headquarters. Also attending were ICAP president Kenia Serrano; Pedro Núñez Mosquera, Cuba’s ambassador at the United Nations; and leaders of the New York-based organization that Barrón helped found, Casa de las Américas, led by Cuban-Americans who support the revolution. Accompanying the honored guest was Gloria Barrón, his wife and lifelong comrade-in-arms.

Alarcón noted that in the 1940s and ’50s thousands of Cuban workers emigrated to the United States in search of work and, after the 1952 military coup by Fulgencio Batista, fleeing the repression under the U.S.-backed Batista regime. Many of them became active in the fight against the dictatorship. Among them was Barrón, who was born in Camagüey, Cuba, and moved

to New York, where he worked in construction and other jobs.

“Barrón, alongside thousands of Cubans in the U.S. who supported the leader of the revolution, Fidel Castro, helped lead the way to the victory in 1959,” Alarcón said. Their story “is an inseparable part of our history but it is not well-known today.” He noted that the U.S. capitalist media hides this record to falsely portray all Cuban-Americans as opposed to the revolution.

Nancy Cabrero, president of Casa de las Américas, told those in attendance that in the fall of 1955 Fidel Castro visited New York and other U.S. cities to organize local units of the July 26 Movement. Castro and other revolutionaries in Cuba had launched the organization a few months earlier to lead the mass struggle against the Batista dictatorship. Units were organized in New York; Bridgeport, Conn.; Union City, N.J.; and Miami, Tampa and Key West, Fla.

In New York, the July 26 Movement unit was a merger of three groups, including the local support committee of the Orthodox Party, of which Barrón was chairperson. Two years later they founded Casa Cuba as a broader formation to win support for the revolutionary struggle.

The working-class militants of Casa Cuba carried out fundraising and other activities. They printed and distributed



Arnaldo Barrón, right, awarded Friendship Medal by Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly, July 24. Barrón was founding leader of July 26 Movement in New York.

copies of *History Will Absolve Me*, the 1953 courtroom speech by Fidel Castro that popularized the aims of the revolutionary struggle led by the July 26 Movement and Rebel Army.

N.Y. expedition backs Rebel Army

In March 1958 Barrón led an expedition of 36 supporters of the armed insurrection from New York. They were attempting to deliver munitions and weapons to the Rebel Army in Cuba aboard a rented boat, *El Orión*, which set off from a beach on the Gulf of Mexico.

The U.S. Coast Guard intercepted the 83-foot trawler off Padre Island, Texas, and arrested the men, “all uniformed and heavily armed,” according to a March 28, 1958, Associated Press dispatch. They were charged with violating the U.S. Neutrality Act.

The case made national headlines as the 36 combatants, jailed in Brownsville, Texas, launched a hunger strike together with July 26 Movement members in New York.

“The little band’s fiery commander, Arnaldo G. Barron, said all 36 had saved for months to buy the \$20,000 in arms seized with the men,” AP reported.

“Barron, in a jail interview, told the Associated Press that most of the men are United States citizens. All were born in Cuba except one Puerto Rican. Some fought for the United States in World War II.”

After winning their release on bond, “the rebels launched a wave of handbill propaganda, apparently to drum up popular support for their position,” the *Brownsville Herald* wrote. “The rebels’ newest ‘manifesto’ asked that ‘the people of Brownsville be present at Federal Court when we stand accused of fighting for liberty and democracy in our country.’”

The defendants were convicted in May 1958. The judge gave them three to five years’ probation.

“This expedition was stopped by the United States Coast Guard but there will be lots of others,” Barrón told the press from the Brownsville jail.

Later that year, Barrón was again indicted by the U.S. government, this time on charges of acting “as an agent of Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement of Cuba without having filed the registration statement required” under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. He pleaded no contest and was given a suspended sentence and five years’ probation.

Government harassment did not deter Barrón and his comrades. With the overthrow of the Batista regime in January 1959 and the opening of a deep-going revolutionary transformation of Cuba, they stepped up their work in the United States.

Over the years Casa Cuba organized many public actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution. It successfully stood up to police victimization and to violent assaults by counterrevolutionary Cuban groups. In 1962, at the urging of Argentine revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara, the organization changed its name to Casa de las Américas to underscore its solidarity with popular struggles across the continent.

At the July 25 tribute to Barrón, Cabrero pledged Casa’s commitment to continue along the road that Barrón and others forged.

René González presses fight to return to Cuba

Continued from page 6

as ‘counter-revolutionary,’ including at Brothers to the Rescue and Movimiento Democracia, a Cuban exile group where Gonzalez’s false depiction of himself as an anti-Castro sympathizer was so successful that he was proposed to head an intelligence division of its aviation group.”

The government also argues that González’s request to serve the remainder of his supervised release in Cuba is essentially a request to terminate it. And that cannot be considered before serving at least one year, it claims.

Moreover, his compliance with the conditions of his parole don’t amount to the “‘exceptionally good behavior’ that courts look for in considering claims of early termination.”

González’s complaints of “impedi-

ments to his wife ... visiting him in the United States are particularly ill placed,” the government response claims, in light of her involvement in his activities and the visit she was allowed in November 2010.

“The fact that a prison visit was granted should not be used to block his rights postrelease to be with his family,” Klugh told the *Militant*, saying this represented an unprecedented “violation of human rights standards.”

Answer to government’s response

On July 30, González’s lawyers submitted a reply to the government’s July 16 filing. It emphasized that González’s request is to modify, not terminate, the conditions of his parole in a manner consistent with his foreign citizenship.

As to the assertion that González remains unrepentant, the reply notes that “each and every defendant who is charged with a crime has the right to maintain their innocence.”

González’s reply also “set the record straight” on the character of the conditions set on Salanueva’s November 2010 visit. In its March 2011 brief opposing González’s request to return to Cuba upon his release from prison the government revealed the visit as part of claims it was addressing the “humanitarian” issues and “suggested that there would be further accommodations.” But no such “accommodation” has been allowed since then.

The reply pointed out that the government attorneys “even opposed the defendant’s request to visit his dying

brother in Havana which this court granted over their objection ... shows the punitive nature of Rene Gonzalez being on supervised release in the United States.”

In March, González traveled to Cuba for two weeks to see his terminally ill brother Roberto González, who died of cancer June 22. The reply cited the fact that González returned to the U.S. following that visit as further proof that he would fulfill his promise to renounce his U.S. citizenship upon his return to Cuba. He will not give up this citizenship before he touches Cuban soil, explained Klugh, because “he would be imprisoned indefinitely as an illegal alien.”

González’s reply also documents the conditions he faces under parole restrictions.

He is required to notify every new acquaintance of his legal status, which would reveal his identity and potentially place him in danger.

This has imposed an extraordinary isolation as he “cannot befriend his most immediate neighbors, or even establish any form of casual friendship,” the reply said. Likewise, he has been unable to obtain a driver’s license because the state of Florida requires that he reveal his address. And, the reply added, his “access to health care was remarkably and unexpectedly much higher in prison than it could ever be under the current conditions.”

González’s request to return to Cuba to serve out his term of supervised release is now in the hands of Judge Lenard.

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tutors listed on page 8

Marx: ‘Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future’

Printed below is “Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future” by Karl Marx the prologue to *Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay* by Leon Trotsky, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for August.

Marx was the central leader of the International Working Men’s Association, better known as the First International, from its founding in London in 1864. “Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future” was drafted by Marx and adopted by the International’s 1866 congress in Geneva, Switzerland, to guide its trade union work. It was published in early 1867 in the association’s journal *International Courier*.

It has been invaluable for union fighters ever since and was used by V.I.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Lenin in organizing the union work of the Bolshevik Party, which led the workers and peasants to power in Russia in the October Revolution of 1917.

“The resolution,” Lenin wrote in 1899, “recognised that the trade unions were not only a natural, but also an essential phenomenon under capitalism and considered them an extremely important means for organising the working class in its daily struggle against capital and for the abolition of wage-labour.”

The resolution underlined that the



Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper

Illustration of labor demonstration for eight-hour day in New York, September 1871. Banner to the left says “8 hours peaceably if possible—forcibly if we must.”

unions “must not remain aloof from the general political and social movement of the working class,” Lenin said, but “must strive for the general emancipation of the millions of oppressed workers.”

The conviction central to the resolution “that the class struggle must necessarily combine the political and the economic struggle into one integral whole has entered into the flesh and blood” of the world revolutionary workers’ movement, Lenin concluded.

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BY KARL MARX

(A) THEIR PAST

Capital is concentrated social force, while the workman has only to dispose of his working force [labor power]. The *contract* between capital and labor can therefore never be struck on equitable terms, equitable even in the sense of a society which places the ownership of the material means of life and labor on one side and the vital productive energies on the opposite side.

The only social power of the workmen is their number. The force of numbers, however, is broken by disunion. The disunion of the workmen is created and perpetuated by their *unavoidable competition among themselves*.

Trades’ unions originally sprang up from the *spontaneous* attempts of workmen at removing or at least checking that

competition, in order to conquer such terms of contract as might raise them at least above the condition of mere slaves.

The immediate object of trades’ unions was therefore confined to everyday necessities, to expediences for the obstruction of the incessant encroachments of capital, in one word, to questions of wages and time of labor. This activity of the trades’ unions is not only legitimate, it is necessary. It cannot be dispensed with so long as the present system of production lasts. On the contrary, it must be generalized by the formation and the combination of trades’ unions throughout all countries.

On the other hand, unconsciously to themselves, the trades’ unions were forming *centers of organization* of the working class, as the medieval municipalities and communes did for the middle class. If the trades’ unions are required for the guerrilla fights between capital and labor, they are still more important as *organized agencies for superseding the very system of wages labor and capital rule*.

(B) THEIR PRESENT

Too exclusively bent upon the local and immediate struggles with capital, the trades’ unions have not yet fully understood their power of acting against the system of wages slavery itself. They therefore kept too much aloof from general social and political movements.

Of late, however, they seem to awak-

en to some sense of their great historical mission, as appears, for instance, from their participation, in England, in the recent political movement, from the enlarged views taken of their function in the United States, and from the following resolution passed at the recent great conference of trades’ delegates at Sheffield:*

“That this conference, fully appreciating the efforts made by the International [Working Men’s] Association to unite in one common bond of brotherhood the working men of all countries, most earnestly recommend to the various societies here represented, the advisability of becoming affiliated to that body, believing that it is essential to the progress and prosperity of the entire working community.”

(C) THEIR FUTURE

Apart from their original purposes, they must now learn to act deliberately as organizing centers of the working class in the broad interest of its *complete emancipation*. They must aid every social and political movement tending in that direction. Considering themselves and acting as the champions and representatives of the whole working class, they cannot fail to enlist the nonsociety [unorganized] men into their ranks.

They must look carefully after the interests of the worst-paid trades, such as the agricultural laborers, rendered powerless by exceptional circumstances. They must convince the world at large that their efforts, far from being narrow and selfish, aim at the emancipation of the downtrodden millions.

* The Sheffield conference, held July 17-21, 1866, brought together 138 delegates representing 200,000 organized workers in Britain. From 1865 to 1867, British unions helped lead a broad campaign for expanded voting rights.

In early 1861, following moves by the southern slave states to secede from the United States, unions in cities throughout the northern and border states held meetings and demonstrations supporting the federal government and urging its defense. During the 1861-65 Civil War, new unions were organized and union activity for the eight-hour day increased.

August

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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The Militant August 27, 2012

Why bosses ‘go after workers so hard’

One of the most frequent questions James Harris and Maura DeLuca, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president, are asked by workers on the picket line is “Why are the bosses going after us so hard?”

Across the country, and around the world, workers face attacks on their wages; jacked-up productivity and longer hours, wearing on life and limb; slashes in health and retirement benefits; demands for ever-deeper divisions between wages for new workers and those with more seniority; increased use of temporary workers at lower pay and no benefits; union busting and assaults on our dignity.

This is not an explosion of greediness among corporate executives. It is a product of the very nature of capitalism.

We are living in the early stages of a worldwide crisis of capitalist accumulation unlike anything since the Great Depression.

Capitalism dominates the world like never before. In the 1930s, most of China, India, Africa and much of Latin America were organized around subsistence peasant farming, isolated from the world market. Today, capitalist relations dominate every corner of the world, drawing millions of toilers into factory production—and into the class struggle.

We do not face a downturn in the “boom and bust” of the business cycle, but a deep-going, long-term crisis engendered by the bosses’ relentless drive to accu-

mulate more and more profits to plow back into fiercer and fiercer competition with each other. This drives profit margins down, and the struggle escalates. The capitalists desperately need some new markets for investment—but there are none.

The only place they can turn is to take it out of the working class, the class that creates all wealth by our labor. And as their crisis deepens, this is exactly what they are doing.

The crisis intensifies the competition among capitalists on a national and international scale. This is why we see U.S. imperialism working from Africa to the South China Sea to battle their Chinese competitors and to shift its military machine to the East. This is behind the crisis of the European Union, the conflicting class interests of the stronger exploiting classes in Germany, France and the United Kingdom vs. the weaker in Greece, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and elsewhere.

The employers seek to draw workers into backing U.S. moves abroad, arguing we all benefit when they clobber their rivals. But we and workers worldwide face exactly the same attacks everywhere, for the same reasons. It is in our interest to fight together.

It is only by coming to understand this reality from our experiences in struggle that we can begin to chart an independent working-class political course of battle, a road toward taking political power and transforming the world.

Autoworkers strike Hyundai in S. Korea

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director of the union’s international department, told the *Militant* in a phone interview. “We want an eight-hour day and to abolish the graveyard shift.”

“The union walkout is counterproductive and harms the workers and Hyundai customers, as well as the company,” Frank Ahrens, Hyundai Motor spokesperson, told the *Militant* via email, complaining the company had lost \$640 million in production in five days.

“Hyundai didn’t make any counterproposals on wages until today,” Chong said Aug. 14. “And even the proposals on the precarious [temporary] workers is really far off. They should not be surprised we went on strike.”

In 2000 Hyundai’s factories in South Korea accounted for 92 percent of the company’s output. Today it’s less than half, as Hyundai has expanded and shifted production to Turkey, India, Russia, China, the Czech Republic and the U.S. Its first factory in Brazil will open in November.

Auto companies are increasing the hiring of temporary workers both to boost profits and weaken the unions. Temp workers account for about 25 percent of Hyundai’s workforce and are paid just 65 percent of the wage of permanent employees, Chong said. Temporary workers went on strike last November demanding permanent positions and have also held

work stoppages over the last week.

Bloomberg News reported that Hyundai made profits of \$49,730 per worker last year compared to Toyota’s \$17,250. Prior to the strike it was on course to increase its already record profits by 12 percent this year.

“Workers reel from violent union busting,” said a July 31 article in *Hankyoreh*, referring to an anti-union offensive over the last several years. The South Korean daily reported that in 2010 and 2011 the bosses succeeded in replacing the Korean Metal Workers Union with pro-company locals at key workplaces, including at Valeo Electrical Systems.

At the SJM auto parts factory in Ansan, according to *Hankyoreh*, “hired goons violently broke up a sit-in protest after storming into the plant early in the morning on July 27.”

Mando Corporation, which makes parts for Hyundai and Kia, locked out workers July 27 and set up a new company union. Mando is now demanding that workers sign no-strike pledges before allowing them to return.

“There is speculation that Hyundai is the invisible hand behind the attacks by goons at SJM and at three Mando plants,” said Chong. “Would any employer decide on an all-out war with their workers that risks a stable supply of parts to Hyundai on their own?”

French gov’t scapegoats Roma, immigrants

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ity in central and eastern Europe. Referred to disparagingly as “gypsies,” they have been a target of racist discrimination and violence across the continent.

In an Aug. 14 opinion column, Minister of Interior Manuel Valls stated that as far as these Roma encampments are concerned, “*laissez-faire* [non-interventionism] solves nothing” and firmness is “necessary.”

In a separate development, clashes between some 100 youth and 150 cops broke out Aug. 13 in the Nord working-class neighborhood of Amiens, mostly immigrants from North Africa, after what witnesses described as an abusive police spot check and arrest. The ensuing hourslong street battle resulted in 16 cops injured and several cars and public buildings torched. Youth unemployment in the area is around 60 percent.

Amiens-Nord is one of 15 areas across France that the government had earmarked earlier in August for increased policing.

“The state will mobilize all its means to combat these violent acts,” Hollande said the next day, announcing additional resources in the next budget for the cops and the *gendarmerie*, a special policing force under the ministry of defense.

In 2005, there were monthlong protests across France in working-class neighborhoods inhabited by immigrants—largely of African descent—against police harassment and brutality, as well as racist discrimination in employment, housing and education. “Little has changed [since] for France’s marginalised youth,” commented an Aug. 14 BBC article.

‘Militant’ holiday schedule

This issue of the *Militant*, mailed out on Aug. 16, will be a two-week issue, as we will be taking a one-week break.

Clinton in Africa

Continued from front page

of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal, the first stop on her tour, Clinton, while not mentioning China by name, took aim at its role in Africa. She asserted that Washington and U.S. corporations “will stand up for democracy and universal human rights even when it might be easier to look the other way and keep the resources coming. ...

“The days of having outsiders come and extract the wealth of Africa for themselves leaving nothing or very little behind should be over in the 21st century,” Clinton stated. “America’s commitment” to Africa “adds value rather than extracts it.”

In response, China’s state-run news agency Xinhua in an Aug. 3 article said Clinton’s remarks were “an attempt to drive a wedge between China and Africa.” Her “implication that China has been extracting Africa’s wealth for itself is utterly wide of the truth,” the article stated. “It was the Western colonial powers that were exactly the so-called outsiders, which in Clinton’s words, came and extracted the wealth of Africa for themselves.”

In 2011, China’s exports to Africa were \$73.4 billion, more than double U.S. exports to the continent. China-Africa trade that year reached \$166 billion—\$40 billion more than U.S.-Africa trade.

In June, the White House issued a new “U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa.” In the introduction Barack Obama says, “We will encourage American companies to seize trade and investment opportunities in Africa.” The Chinese government promptly responded with a promise of \$20 billion in loans to African countries over the next three years.

Washington has also been expanding its military operations in Africa. It maintains 3,500 U.S. military personnel in Djibouti in Northeast Africa. The air base is a center for launching armed aerial drone attacks targeting the Islamist group al-Shabab in Somalia and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen.

In addition, National Guard units are being sent to various African countries. Next March another 3,000 U.S. soldiers will be deployed to Africa.

Last October, the Obama administration sent 100 special operations troops to four countries in Central Africa—Uganda, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo—as part of a military action targeting the Lord’s Resistance Army, a group of armed bandits operating in the region.

In Kenya, Clinton met with President Mwai Kibaki, in Nairobi, in talks aimed at strengthening military ties. With Washington’s backing, some 4,000 Kenyan troops invaded southern Somalia last October in a drive against supporters of al-Shabab.

Similarly, in Uganda Clinton sought to tighten ties with the nation’s military, which comprises a major component of the 10,000-strong African Union occupation force in Somalia. Ugandan troops are working closely with U.S. special forces operating inside Uganda.

Clinton also visited the newly created state of South Sudan. Gen. Carter Ham, commander of the U.S. Africa Command, recently announced that plans are in the works to establish a base for surveillance flights in Nzara there.

In Nigeria Aug. 9, Clinton characterized the country, the most populous on the continent, as one of Washington’s “most vitally important strategic partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa.” Nigeria is Africa’s top oil producer and a major exporter of light crude to the U.S.

She also offered to aid President Goodluck Jonathan in creating an “intelligence fusion cell” to combine spying information from the military and federal, state and local police agencies, with Washington providing training and equipment, and assistance tracking “suspects.”

Washington’s aim is to deepen ties with the Nigerian government in its drive against the Islamist group Boko Haram, which operates in the northern part of the country.

Attacks by Nigerian forces in these areas are increasingly unpopular. “The army is raiding our houses one after the other, beating and brutalizing people,” Rahamman Bello, a resident of Adavi village near Okene, told Reuters. “Many of our people are being arrested and molested.”