

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Meeting in D.C.: 'Fight to free Cuban 5 is fight for ourselves'

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 35 OCTOBER 1, 2012

Join big int'l effort to win new readers to 'Militant'!

BY DOUG NELSON

The *Militant* is calling on workers and others who regularly read this socialist newsweekly to take part in an international effort to win thousands of new subscribers.

Join us in this campaign—a *big campaign*. Between now and mid-December, help us get the *Militant*, as well as books and pamphlets on revolutionary politics, into the hands of people you know, people you work with, people who live in your neighborhoods, towns, and cities.

Workers need a paper published in the interests of our class. We need a working-class paper, one that charts a political course of struggle in face of the world capitalist crisis, for which the propertied rulers and their governments have no solution.

Over the last two years, *Militant* salespeople have found broad interest among working people in the paper's

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'Imperialist moves against China not in our interests'

SWP candidate talks with New Zealand workers



Militant/Mike Tucker

James Harris, at center of table, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, speaks with members of Maritime Union Local 13 in Auckland, New Zealand, Sept. 10.

BY FELICITY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—“We’re in the midst of an international economic crisis. The propertied rulers react by going after us, the working class,” James Harris, Socialist

Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, told 50 dockworkers and seafarers at their monthly union meeting here Sept. 10. “We need to learn to stand together and link up across borders, like this union does with the longshore union in the U.S.”

Harris was invited to speak by officials of Local 13 of the Maritime Union. Continued on page 3

Fed's 3rd money printing scheme can't 'stimulate' growth, hiring

BY JOHN STUDER

The Federal Reserve Bank's, third round of “quantitative easing,” announced Sept. 13 by Fed chairman Ben Bernanke, can be expected to have a similar effect on the crisis of capitalist production, trade and employment as did the \$2 trillion put into “stimulating” the economy with QE1 and QE2—none.

Quantitative Easing 3 involves the Fed buying \$40 billion a month in mortgage-backed securities—at one time commonly referred to as “toxic assets”—from U.S. banks. The stated goal is to lower mortgage costs, spur lending and new construction and promote job creation by essentially printing money and giving it to banks to play with.

The program, Bernanke said, would be open-ended, totaling \$480 billion a year, year after year, until the country's central bank is convinced “real progress” against unemployment has been made.

Bernanke also said the Fed will continue to keep short-term interest rates low. Continued on page 9

Miners in S. Africa win wage raise despite crackdown by government



Alexander Joe/AFP/Getty Images

Rock drillers at Lonmin platinum mine in South Africa celebrate victory in five-week strike, Sept. 18. Miners showed that they are the union in face of pressure to end their strike.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Striking rock drillers at the Lonmin platinum mine in Marikana, South Africa, won an overall 22 percent pay increase Sept. 18, ending their five-week strike. The workers had refused to return to work without a substantial wage hike even after cops mowed down 34 strikers and wounded 78 Aug. 16 and launched subsequent crackdowns.

The strike victory—showing that the miners are the union—is sure to give confidence to workers who have joined strikes at platinum and gold

mines in other parts of the country.

South African Justice Minister Jeff Radebe threatened Sept. 14 that “all those who continue to engage in illegal activities are going to be dealt with very swiftly.”

Later that day police fired stun grenades and arrested seven strikers at the Aquarius Platinum mine near Rustenburg. Aquarius is at least the fourth mining company that has halted operations due to strike action since the 3,000 Lonmin rock drillers started their strike Aug. 10.

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Assault on US Embassies show a world increasingly out of Washington's control

BY LOUIS MARTIN

The wave of anti-U.S. demonstrations that broke out Sept. 11 in predominantly Muslim countries from North Africa to Asia—and the assault

on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that day—illustrate the growing challenges U.S. imperialism faces in a world of increasing chaos and unpredictability.

The protests were sparked by the release in Arabic of part of a low-budget movie deriding Muhammad and Islam called “The Innocence of Muslims,” which was reportedly produced in California.

An American ambassador, Christopher Stevens, and three staff members were killed in the attack on the consulate in Benghazi. The inci-

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Teachers in Chicago end 9-day strike

BY ILONA GERSH AND ALYSON KENNEDY

CHICAGO—A meeting of 800 members of the Chicago Teachers Union House of Delegates representing 26,000 striking teachers decided Sept. 18 to suspend their nine-day strike and return to work. Teachers will vote on a contract proposal over the next few weeks.

The decision to suspend the strike came a day after Democratic Party Mayor Rahm Emanuel went to court seeking an injunction to force the teachers back to work.

The strike affecting the Chicago school system, the third largest in the country with some 350,000 students, received national attention and promi-

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Hundreds killed in two factory fires in Pakistan

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Workers and labor leaders say bosses' greed and disregard for safety are responsible for the deaths of 314 workers in factory fires in Pakistan's two largest cities Sept. 11.

Two hundred eighty-nine workers, more than half the workforce, were killed in a fire at the four-story Ali Enterprises garment factory in Karachi. At least 65 were injured from jumping out windows.

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, is a major port as well as center of industry and commerce with a multinational population drawn from every corner of the country. "We had Biharis, Gujratis, Baloch, Sindhi, Pashtuns, Urdu-speakers, Punjabis," one of the survivors of the fire told the *New York Times*.

The other fire, in the eastern city of Lahore, swept a four-story shoe factory and killed 25 workers, mostly teenagers.

Workers at Ali Enterprises, which also makes plastic utensils and candles, say plant managers locked the doors in an attempt to save the company's stockpiles of jeans. The windows were iron gridded, reported Lahore's *Daily Times*.

"Even when there is a fire they lock the doors," Nasir Mansoor, deputy general secretary of the National Trade Union Federation, said in a phone interview from Karachi. "They figure the workers might steal something so they check them before letting them leave."

"Almost every factory, especially garment factories, are built without proper permits from the building authority or electrical inspections, and labor inspectors don't enforce the laws," Mansoor said. "Every month there's a

fire and a collapse of a building. Every factory is like a time bomb."

There are no official statistics on job injuries "because there is no government willingness to collect those figures," Khalid Mahmood, director of the Labour Education Foundation in Lahore, told the *Militant*.

Ali Enterprises, like most factories, hires workers through "third party" contractors. Bosses don't register employees in order to avoid paying social security and keep out unions, which only represent about 5 percent of garment and textile workers, Mansoor said.

The lack of employee records has made it hard to identify all the victims.

The two owners of Ali Enterprises have obtained a court order blocking their arrest on murder charges, accord-



Photo courtesy of National Trade Union Federation, Pakistan

Sept. 15 demonstration outside Ali Enterprises factory in Karachi, Pakistan, demanding compensation for families of workers killed or injured in fire. "Every factory is like a time bomb," said trade union leader Nasir Mansoor, because of disregard of safety by the factory owners.

ing to Mansoor.

Thousands of workers protested outside the burned-down factory Sept. 15.

"We are demanding compensation for the families of the workers who

died and compensation and free medical treatment for the wounded workers," Mansoor said. "We are demanding that the government register all the factories" and enforce the existing laws.

Inmates die from severe heat in Texas prisons

BY STEVE WARSHHELL

HOUSTON—On July 30, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Eugene Blackmon, a prisoner in the C-8 dormitory at the Texas state prison in Beeville, could sue the warden and prison officials for keeping him and 53 other inmates locked up with the windows sealed and no air conditioning. Blackmon charges these conditions endangered his health and violated constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment.

Blackmon said the warden and others also turned on the unit's heaters—and then failed to respond to numerous grievances he filed about the heat and its debilitating effects on his health, re-

ported the *New York Times*.

These conditions are all too common inside Texas prisons. In a two-month span during the summer of 2011, 10 inmates of the state prison system died of heat-related causes. They were all housed in areas that lacked air conditioning, and several had collapsed or lost consciousness while they were in their cells. All of them were found to have died of hyperthermia, a condition that occurs when body temperature rises above 105 degrees, according to autopsy reports and the state's prison agency.

Prison officials with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice have admitted that 12 inmates have died of heat-related causes since 2007. The lack of air conditioning in the prison system has been highlighted in recent weeks after lawyers from the nonprofit Texas Civil Rights Project sued the agency in federal court over an inmate's death last summer. They also plan to file additional wrongful-death lawsuits.

Of the 111 prisons overseen by the agency, only 21 are fully air-conditioned.

A Texas law requires county jails to maintain temperature levels between 65 and 85 degrees, but the law does not apply to state prisons.

"People who don't know what it's

like on the inside have a hard time understanding what it's like," long-time Houston area prisoner rights activist Ray Hill told the *Militant*. "There was no thought of air flow when they built these places and everyone is housed in cells with three solid walls and bars on one side. The Ramsey Unit where I was incarcerated in Rosharon, Texas, was like one big heat sink.

"Most prisons only provide refrigerated air for classrooms and some offices. For men in the upper tier cell blocks, they may come in from working all day in the fields only to find 125 degree heat for most of the night," added Hill. "The only thing they have to cool off is the evaporation of their own sweat."

In June, the Texas Civil Rights Project filed a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court on behalf of Sandra McCollum, Stephen McCollum and Stephanie Kingrey, the wife, son and daughter of Larry Gene McCollum. They accused prison officials of causing his death by keeping him in the sweltering heat at Hutchins State Jail, where he had a seizure around 2 a.m. on July 22.

"There's pets in pounds that have better conditions," said Stephen McCollum, 30, at a news conference in Austin announcing the lawsuit.

THE MILITANT

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Militant/Hugo Wils
March in Birmingham, England, Aug. 18 to protest death of Kingsley Burrell in custody.

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The Militant

Vol. 76/No. 35
Closing news date: September 20, 2012
Editor: Steve Clark
Managing editor: Doug Nelson
Business manager: Lea Sherman
Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Louis Martin, John Studer, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.
 Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in July, and two weeks in September.
 The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947
E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.
Latin America, Caribbean: For one year

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SWP vice presidential candidate: 'legalize undocumented workers'

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE—Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, campaigned in the Yakima Valley in Washington Sept. 5. The area is noted for its fruits and vegetables, picked and processed by thousands of immigrant workers.

DeLuca spoke at a “meet the candidate” community meeting in Yakima’s Miller Park, the site of the annual May Day action for immigrant rights.

DeLuca was interviewed for the 6 p.m. news on KDNA Radio, which calls itself the “voice of the farm worker.”

“We call for legalizing all immigrants and ending E-verify and deportations. They should have the right to work,” DeLuca said, responding to a question about Obama’s recent decision to allow certain immigrant youth to apply for a two-year waiver of deportation.

“We have to see ourselves as part of an international class. When we are united we are strong as a class and they can’t divide us so easily,” she added.

“We don’t have the money they have,” DeLuca said when asked about her chances of winning the election. “What we do have is the *Militant* newspaper, which comes out every week, and speaks about world politics and workers’ struggles, and Pathfinder books that speak about the lessons of the revolutionary struggles of the working class.”

Edgar Baeza, a high school student, said he had worked in a packinghouse where a union organizing drive had been defeated. “Many of the workers were afraid to vote for the union because of the pressure put on us to vote no.”

The following day DeLuca met workers at the shift change at Davis Wire Company in Kent. Many were glad to see her again. Both she and James Harris, SWP presidential candidate, visited the picket lines earlier. Members of Teamsters Local 117 won important gains after three months on strike.

The next day, DeLuca spoke at a citywide campaign meeting in Seattle, joined by Robert Bruner, a shop steward for Teamsters Local 117 at Davis Wire.

On Sept. 8, DeLuca spoke to 24 people at a campaign meeting in Vancouver,

British Columbia. She was joined by Joe Young from the Communist League in Canada and Mary Martin, SWP candidate for governor of Washington.

Young described how the League has been active in building solidarity with hotel workers on strike in Quebec and the ongoing fight by tens of thousands of students against tuition increases.

“No matter which major party gets elected in November in the United States,” DeLuca said, “working people will go to the wall.

“Unlike the Democrats and Republicans, I am not trying to urge individuals to look out for number one and pull themselves up by their bootstraps. The entire working class will pull itself up as it fights for its class interests.”

Earlier DeLuca met members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union at their hiring hall in Vancouver. They asked her why she was talking to workers who can’t vote for her.

“There are a lot of workers in the U.S. who can’t vote either,” she said. “The millions who are undocumented or have felony records are denied the right to vote. But they are all part of the working class and our campaign seeks to unify workers regardless of status or borders.”

SWP presidential candidate campaigns in New Zealand

Continued from front page

Union, which has been engaged in an eight-month contract fight with the Ports of Auckland.

“The slowdown in China has had an impact in this region,” Harris said. “In Australia nearly 9,000 jobs were lost last month. In New Zealand, miners are being laid off.

“The economic crisis of capitalism drives the rulers, from the U.S. to New Zealand, to press harder on working people as they compete against their rivals around the world, China chief among them,” he added. “That’s what is behind the U.S. role in the territorial disputes over small islands in the South China Sea, the recent trips to the region by Hillary Clinton and Leon Panetta, and the

Seattle protest demands end to E-Verify



Militant/Clay Dennison

SEATTLE—Nearly 100 people joined a Labor Day rally here Sept. 3, to call for an end to the U.S. government’s anti-immigrant E-Verify and Secure Communities programs. The programs have made it increasingly difficult for undocumented workers to get jobs and increases their risk of deportation if stopped by the cops.

The rally was sponsored by El Comité Pro-Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social and the May 1 Action Coalition. Speakers included Juan Jose Bocanegra, Jorge Quiroga, and Alma Rocio Gutierrez, leaders of El Comité.

Syd Coe, a member of Teamsters Local 117 who was part of a recently concluded strike at Davis Wire Company in Kent, spoke during the open mike.

“I am here to return the solidarity and to show that workers need to stay united with each other,” Coe said, referring to the support Davis Wire workers received during the strike.

—EDWIN FRUIT

moves by Washington to militarily encircle China by deepening existing alliances in the Pacific and forging new ones.

“These moves are counter to the interests of working people—in the U.S. and throughout the entire Pacific from New Zealand to China,” Harris said.

The next day, Harris spoke to some 20 students at Auckland University, invited by members of “We Are The University,” a group campaigning against fee increases.

Harris traveled to Ngaruawahia Sept. 12 to speak to members of the Meat Workers Union from the AFFCO-owned beef plant at nearby Horotiu. Union members there fought a 12-week battle earlier this year, including against a lockout, and the company’s attempts to cut jobs and seniority, and undermine the union.

“I had heard of strikes before, but not lockouts,” said Simon McQueen, a boner and shop steward, and one of more than 40 mainly Maori workers attending. “Where do these come from, and when were they first used?”

“When we’re weak, they lock us out,” replied Harris. “In the U.S. now the union movement is at its weakest point in decades, and the employers feel emboldened. But they’ve been surprised by the resistance they’ve encountered. Given where we’re starting from, we may not win, but we let the bosses know that we will fight, and we learn.

“Movements come out of struggle, where working people gain awareness of ourselves and our capacities,” he said.

Sharryn Barton, a member of the Service and Food Workers Union, also attended the meeting and asked Harris to take a message of solidarity back to workers in the United States. “For us this is also a struggle of Maori people, the *tangata whenua*

[indigenous people],” she said. She asked that Harris also take a message of solidarity to “the *tangata whenua* in the U.S.—Native Americans.”

“That is absolutely true,” Harris said. “Unions need to support broader struggles that working people are involved in—those of Maori workers, Black workers, immigrant workers, Native American workers. And think of the power you can unleash if you have the labor movement on your side.”

“The biggest lesson we learned during the lockout was that we couldn’t stand alone,” union president Don Arnold said, closing the meeting. “We had become insular, complacent and the bosses shook us up.”

Alison McCulloch, a journalist and a leader of the fight to defend women’s right to abortion, drove across the country to attend and interview Harris.

Workers at the meeting kicked in over \$100 to help cover Harris’ air fare to New Zealand.

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‘SWP important ally in fights by workers in Yakima Valley’

The following statement was sent to the Socialist Workers campaign by two workers in Yakima, Wash.—Robert Beal, a rangeland erosion laborer, and Iselda Acosta, a nurse. Both are members of Occupy Yakima.

Earlier this month Yakima, Washington, had a great visit from several members of the Socialist Workers Party, including their vice presidential candidate, welder Maura DeLuca, and their Washington gubernatorial candidate, temporary factory worker Mary Martin. Their “delegation” spent part of their day at a Del Monte food processing plant and had a chance to speak with many of the Teamster workers there.

At a meet-the-candidates gathering, Maura told us that championing legalization of undocumented workers is a life-or-death issue for the U.S. working class.

The SWP can be an important ally and offer a foundational perspective in the fight for economic and social justice for Yakima Valley workers. SWP activists and candidates have a lifetime commitment not just to workers but to being workers. They operate face-to-face with simple messages, knocking on doors, distributing literature like the *Militant* newspaper and books such as *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, and standing in solidarity at fights against workplace repression worldwide.

We will write in Mary Martin for Governor of Washington and John Naubert (who staffed the booth next to ours at the May Day march in Yakima) for U.S. Senator and vote for the SWP presidential and vice presidential candidates James Harris and Maura DeLuca.

Robert Beal
Iselda Acosta

Literature on SWP presidential campaign



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South African miners

Continued from front page

Miners went on strike at Gold Fields Sept. 9 and at Anglo American Platinum (Amplats), the largest platinum producer in the world, Sept. 11.

“We are working for mahala (for free),” Siyabonga Dlamini, one of the 8,000 strikers at Gold Fields, told the *Mail & Guardian*. “I earn 4,800 rand (US \$585) a month and then 4,400 after deductions. I can’t survive on this—it’s nonsense.” Gold Fields strikers demand a wage raise to 12,500 rand.

On Sept. 14, the Lonmin strikers who were demanding more than doubling their base wage to R12,500 a month, rejected an offer by the British-owned company of a R900 increase.

The next day police raided Lonmin-owned hostels at the Karee mine where 6,000 workers live and at the Nkaneng settlement, beating workers and confiscating machetes and spears. Twelve workers were arrested.

“Those arrested have been charged under the Illegal Gathering Act as well as for public violence,” announced regional police spokesperson Thulani Ngubane. “They have been burning tires in the area.”

The 1993 Illegal Gathering Act was passed after the white supremacist regime released Nelson Mandela from jail and repealed apartheid laws, but before Mandela was elected president. The police have also threatened to use the 1968 Dangerous Weapons Act against strikers. The African National Congress, the national liberation movement that led the fight to overturn the regime, is now the ruling party and has left this and other apartheid era laws on the books.

On the eve of the crackdown, South African President Jacob Zuma told the National Assembly that the strikes make the workers “and the country worse off.”

Julius Malema, a well-known bourgeois opponent of President Zuma and a dissident member of the ANC who was expelled from its youth league, sought to capitalize on the miners’ discontent.

He has visited striker assemblies and demagogically called on the workers to make the mines “ungovernable,” called for removal of the NUM leadership, demanded that

Zuma resign, attacked the “white” business owners and called for “nationalization” of the mines.

The mine owners have accused the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, which has been competing with the NUM for the allegiance of mine workers, of fomenting the strike at Lonmin and other companies.

“They say we are a militant union,” Joseph Mathunjwa, AMCU president said in a Sept. 15 phone interview. “But we are not behind all these strikes.” He noted that AMCU has no presence at Amplats, which is organized by the NUM.

Mathunjwa said that his union has called on Zuma to convene a meeting of all the unions and mine owners to work out a solution. “Let’s have the beginning of give and take,” he said. “Let’s see what the business world can afford and have everyone go back to work and not lose investors.”

The NUM has proposed a “centralized bargaining council” for the platinum sector that would include all unions and that wage negotiations originally scheduled for June 2013 be opened as soon as possible.

But the miners disregarded the calls by officials of both unions to go back to work before they had won their demands and are unwilling to rely on promises by the bosses and the gov-

W. Va. miners demand pensions, health care in bankruptcy



Militant/Linda Joyce

CHARLESTON, W.Va.—Hundreds of members of the United Mine Workers rallied downtown here Sept. 11 in a fight against Patriot Coal Corp.’s drive to tear up their union contract. Patriot filed for bankruptcy in July and is seeking to shed payments for retiree pensions and health care benefits. The company employs about 2,000 union members in West Virginia and Kentucky, and covers benefits for more than 10,000 retirees and another 10,000 dependents, according to the *Charleston Gazette*. Meanwhile, on Sept. 18, Alpha Natural Resources announced it was laying off 1,200 workers at eight mines in Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

—LINDA JOYCE

ernment to discuss their demands some time in the future.

At the Amplats mine, which is organized by the NUM, workers have

chosen an executive committee of six, outside the NUM structure, to bring their demands to the mine owners, reported the *Mail* Sept. 13.

Assault on US Embassies in North Africa, Middle East

Continued from front page

dent represents the first time a U.S. ambassador has been killed since 1979. U.S. Embassies in Egypt and Tunisia were besieged by demonstrators. In Sudan the targets of the protests included the German and British Embassies. U.S. flags were burned.

Washington responded by sending two destroyers to the Libyan coast, along with extra troops and special forces to the region. And extra U.S. drones have been dispatched to the skies over Libya and Yemen. President Barack Obama vowed that “justice will be done.”

Personnel deemed nonessential have been ordered to leave U.S. diplomatic missions in Sudan, Tunisia and Libya. Consular services have been suspended in Yemen.

The events strained relations between

Washington and the Egyptian government of President Mohamed Morsi, who was elected in June. In a phone call to Morsi Sept. 12, President Obama warned “that relations would be jeopardized if the authorities in Cairo failed to protect American diplomats and stand more firmly against anti-American attacks,” the *New York Times* reported.

Morsi has been negotiating with Washington for more than \$1 billion in aid, debt forgiveness and U.S. investments. Morsi’s party, the Muslim Brotherhood, was among the initial forces calling for protests at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo where protesters scaled the walls, tearing down the U.S. flag and replacing it with a black Islamic flag. The Egyptian government eventually cracked down on protesters Sept. 15.

Hatred of U.S. imperialism remains widespread among working people throughout the region, fueled by decades of war and U.S. support for dictatorial and anti-working-class regimes.

Salafist groups have used the protests to present themselves as more radically anti-U.S. vis-à-vis rival Islamist forces in the newly elected Muslim Brotherhood governments in Tunisia and Egypt, and the pro-Brotherhood one in Libya.

The White House pressured Google, which owns Internet video server YouTube, to block access to the movie trailer, which they eventually did in India, Indonesia, Libya and Egypt. The site has been banned by the Pakistani government.

The incident has renewed the bourgeois political debate over freedom of speech as protected in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, with some suggesting there are types of speech that should be restricted.

The U.S. Embassy in Cairo issued a statement on the movie before it was stormed by protesters titled, “U.S. Embassy Condemns Religious

Incitement,” saying “We firmly reject the actions by those who abuse the universal right of free speech.”

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney denounced the Obama administration for the statement as an “apology for our values” and “sympathizing” with those who attacked the embassy. Romney’s statements were met with mixed reactions, including among Republican pundits who derided Romney for bad timing and not publicly backing the commander-in-chief at a time of crisis.

Canadian gov’t closes embassy, cuts off diplomatic ties with Iran

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL—The Canadian government abruptly closed its embassy in Tehran Sept. 5, pulling its diplomatic corps out of Iran and cutting off all diplomatic relations.

Ottawa gave Iran’s diplomatic staff five days to leave the country and declared Iranian government a “state-sponsor of terrorism.”

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird claimed the action was taken out of concern for the safety of Canadian diplomats, but also because of the alleged “military dimension” of Tehran’s nuclear program and its support for the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria.

In response, Iran’s foreign ministry said the action was a “continuation of anti-Iranian policies”—which includes freezing bank accounts of Iranians in

Canada as part of imperialist financial sanctions on Iran.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed Ottawa’s action, calling on the “entire international community ... to follow in Canada’s determined path and set Iran moral and practical red lines that will stop its race to achieve nuclear weapons.”

The Iranian government maintains its nuclear program is only for production of energy and for medical purposes.

Meanwhile, cruisers, aircraft carriers and minesweepers from 25 nations are converging on the Strait of Hormuz in the context of threats by the Israeli government to carry out air strikes against Iran’s nuclear facilities.

The imperialist exercise will be followed next month by the biggest air defense war game ever staged by Tehran.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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UNITED KINGDOM

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Hear James Harris, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U.S. President. Fri., Sept. 28, 7 p.m. Donation: £3. First floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (entrance in Brick Lane), E2 6DG. Tel.: (020) 7613-2466.

Manchester

The Working Class, Labour, Socialist Campaign From the U.S. to the U.K. Speakers: James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president; Pete Clifford, Communist League candidate for Manchester Central’s parliamentary by-election. Sat., Sept. 29, 6 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Bronx pharmaceutical workers picket during 3-day lockout

BRONX, New York—Workers at the Perrigo pharmaceutical company here set up picket lines during a three-day lockout, which began Sept. 4.

A week earlier, the workers voted to reject a company contract proposal despite a recommendation by Teamsters Local 210 officials to accept it.

The company had offered \$1.80 an hour wage increase over three years. Wages for some 350 production workers at Perrigo, one of the largest manufacturers of non-prescription medicine in the world, begin at \$8.50 an hour and many longtime workers make under \$15 an hour.

“We need to be able to pay our rent, and the company’s offer was not enough,” said Sonia Rosa, a packaging worker at the plant for more than 12 years.

After three days workers approved the contract proposal with no changes. “I am still glad we did it, we stood up for ourselves,” said Belkis Polanco, a packaging worker, who has worked there for 14 years.

“Many people are not happy with the contract,” said Virgen López, “and the company is going to keep pressuring the workers. It does not end here.”

—Róger Calero

Walmart warehouse workers strike in Illinois and California

ELWOOD, Ill.—Some 30 workers went on strike at the Walmart distribution center here outside Joliet Sept. 15, after turning in a petition to the employment agency that hires them, demanding higher wages, regular hours and job safety.

Elwood workers say that Roadlink Workforce Solutions does not pay all hours worked, is not paying overtime

wages, and pays less than the minimum wage. Several workers were fired after presenting the petition.

“When we set up a picket line they changed our status to ‘suspended until further notice,’” said Chelsee Stevenson, 19, a freight hauler.

“They tell you you’re worthless, and then expect you to stay until the work is finished, sometimes 16 or 17 hours,” said Ted Ledwa, a shipping worker. “You never see overtime pay because you never clear 40 hours a week.”

The workers, together with Warehouse Workers for Justice, are picketing the distribution center every day from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Neither Walmart nor Roadlink returned requests for comment.

Some three dozen employment agency workers at a Mira Loma, Calif., warehouse that supplies Walmart stores went on strike Sept. 12 to protest unsafe working conditions.

Along with other supporters they are walking 50 miles from Mira Loma to Los Angeles to draw attention to their fight.

—Betsy Farley

Locked-out workers picket Quebec metal distributor

BOUCHERVILLE, Quebec—Russel Metals Inc. locked out 94 workers at its Acier Leroux plant here after workers took a longer than usual lunch break Sept. 10 to pressure the company during contract negotiations. The workers, members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), have been without a contract since May 1. On Aug. 19 they had voted 100 percent in favor of authorizing union officials to call a strike.

Workers are seeking protection against contracting out jobs, more union control over health and safety, and wage increases for workers loading and unloading trucks.

“Safety is an issue. There are lots of accidents,” union President Lucien Dallaire told the *Militant* on the picket



Militant/Betsy Farley

Walmart warehouse workers on strike in Elwood, Ill., Sept. 17. At center with bullhorn is freight hauler Chelsee Stevenson. “They tell you you’re worthless, and then expect you to stay until the work is finished, sometimes 16 or 17 hours,” said shipping worker Ted Ledwa (left).

line Sept. 16. “They want to weaken union rights and reduce the number of sick days,” added Jacques Boutin, a truck driver at the plant for 28 years.

Workers said the steel distribution company obtained a court injunction limiting the number of pickets to 10 and imposed time limits on how long they can hold up trucks. But Boutin said the work stoppage has reduced shipments from “900,000 pounds of iron a day to 150,000 pounds based on the number of trucks leaving the plant.” The unionists picket around-the-clock.

The company has not returned calls requesting comment.

—Beverly Bernardo and John Steele

Workers fight for contracts at dozens of Quebec hotels

MONTREAL—Fifteen Quebec hotels have reached tentative agreements with the Confederation of National Trade Unions or signed contracts in recent days. Demonstrations, 24-hour strikes, and lockouts have taken place at several of the hotels since coordinated negotiations on contracts for 5,500 workers at 35 hotels began when contracts expired in May.

Some of the largest of the hotels are among those that have settled. Negotiations continue at 20 remaining hotels and workers at three smaller hotels—the Sinomonde, Expresso and Maritime—are still locked out.

Settlements at the 15 hotels are similar: four-year union contracts with yearly 3 percent wage increases, 2 percent increases in employer pension funds, and some protection from job cuts due to “green” programs.

Some 300 workers who were locked out by the Hyatt Regency July 25 approved their new contract by a 92 percent margin on Sept. 14.

The bosses “gave us the union platform,” Hyatt worker Rose Pestelle Jacques told the *Militant*. “Now we have to go to Sinomonde and Expresso. They need help because they haven’t settled yet.”

“The bosses are threatening to close the hotel and turn it into a condo,” Roberto Guillaume, a bellboy for 34 years, said on the Maritime picket line. “But we’ll keep fighting.”

“In ’86, they were on strike for six weeks,” said Lucie Duquette, pointing to Guillaume. “They fought for what we have today.”

—Katy LeRougetel and John Steele

Capitalism’s World Disorder

WORKING-CLASS POLITICS AT THE MILLENNIUM

by Jack Barnes



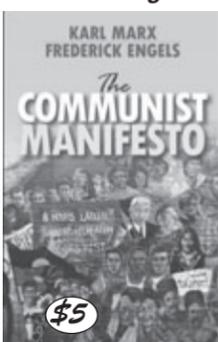
The social devastation and financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality, and imperialist aggression—all are products not of something gone wrong with capitalism but of its lawful workings. Yet the future can be changed by

the united struggle of workers and farmers increasingly conscious of their capacity to wage revolutionary struggles for state power and to transform the world.

The Communist Manifesto

by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels

Explains why communism is not a set of preconceived principles but the line of march of the working class toward power, “springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes.”



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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 2, 1987

The September 21 sneak attack by a U.S. military helicopter on an Iranian ship, resulting in the killing of several Iranians and the seizure of 26 others, deserves sharp condemnation by all working people.

Washington’s determination to continue escalating military attacks on Iran was signaled the next day when a U.S. warship fired on an Iranian aircraft.

With the help of European allies, the Pentagon has built up a massive naval and air armada in the Persian Gulf—the largest such mobilization since the Korean War in the early 1950s. A central goal of the operation has been to provoke situations in which U.S. warships and planes could strike at Iranian ships, planes, or territory.

The attack on the Iranian ship was planned well in advance and completely unprovoked. “We trailed the Iranian ship for days until just the right moment,” boasted a Pentagon official.



October 1, 1962

President Kennedy is still flirting with war in the Cuban situation. His program of deliberate and calculated measures against Cuba has prevailed against those who are hysterically ranting for immediate blockade or invasion.

Nonetheless, the Kennedy administration is clearly making preparations for a Cuban invasion at some future time. It is right now carrying out dangerous provocations, which risk war, and planning even more dangerous ones. At the same time it is tightening the economic screws on Cuba by increasing pressure on European countries to embargo the island, which had the audacity to abolish capitalism only 90 miles from the U.S.

A resolution authorizing employment of U.S. military forces against Cuba was adopted in the Senate Sept. 20 by a vote of 86 to 1. The lone dissenter, Sen. Winston Prouty (R-Vt), declared the resolution wasn’t strong enough.

SOCIALIST APPEAL

October 2, 1937

The reports of the United Auto Workers Union convention in the capitalist press gave no hint of the spirit, the boldness, the courage and the resourcefulness displayed by the delegates. Their organization in one year had grown from 30,000 members to almost 375,000.

In the brief period of the year since the South Bend convention, the auto workers, by a series of swift, bold and dramatic sit-down strikes had broken down the fear of the auto workers, paralyzed the resistance of the employers, established unions and signed agreements with all of the major automobile and auto parts manufacturers, with the single exception of Ford.

On the first day of the convention, the 1,100 delegates paid tribute to this glorious achievement in a wild uncontrollable demonstration which continued unabated hour after hour.

Moscow protest demands rights, 'free Pussy Riot!'

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the largest protest against the Russian government since June, some 40,000 people marched in Moscow Sept. 15 chanting "Russia without Putin." Many demonstrators wore T-shirts supporting jailed members of the feminist punk-rock group Pussy Riot, and huge balloons reading "Free Pussy Riot" floated above the crowd.

As a result of popular protests in Russia and beyond, political pressure is mounting on Moscow to release the three members of Pussy Riot—Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 22, Maria Alyokhina, 24, and Yekaterina Samutsevich, 30—found guilty Aug. 17 of "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred" and sentenced to two years in prison. They were arrested seconds into staging a protest inside the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow Feb. 21.

Demonstrators called for early elections. President Vladimir Putin's March election victory and his party's parliamentary victories last December were marked by widespread allegations of fraud.

According to the *New York Times*, participants comprised a wide spectrum of political currents, including a contingent from the Communist Party, which had kept its distance from previous actions.

"We are against bureaucrats owning a Lexus when that Lexus costs the same as a new house for a homeless family," Aleksei Tyorkin, a school teacher and part-time construction worker marching with the Communist Party, told the *Times*.

Rightist nationalists marched, chanting "Moscow is a Russian city."

Faced with mounting political pressure, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Sept. 12 that the three jailed members of Pussy Riot should be given a suspended sentence because the

amount of time they've spent in jail is "entirely sufficient."

In written answers to Britain's *Guardian*, Samutsevich said that "the evil plan of our authorities, to jail us so as to break us and sour us, has already failed miserably."

"The problem for Putin personally now is that a lot of people no longer see his strong hand and authority, but his fear and uncertainty in the face of the progressive citizens of Russia, who grow more and more numerous with every step like our verdict," she wrote.

"What I can say for sure is that we still madly want changes in Russia—toward anti-authoritarian leftist ideas," she said. "We, along with many citizens of our country, are burning even more with the desire to finally take from Putin his monopoly on power, since his image no longer seems so total and terrible."

Join 'Militant' international readership drive!

Continued from front page

coverage of how both the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties, whatever the squabbles among them, are making workers pay for capitalism's global contraction of production and trade. There is interest in our reports on resistance to the bosses' attacks by workers, opponents of cop brutality, and supporters of the rights of women and immigrants.

We've found this receptivity in working-class neighborhoods; among workers who are Black, Latino, and Caucasian; in large cities and small, as well as rural areas. We've found it on union picket lines and at street-corner tables, plant gates and political events.

Working people are interested in what's behind the mounting crisis in Europe, China and elsewhere;



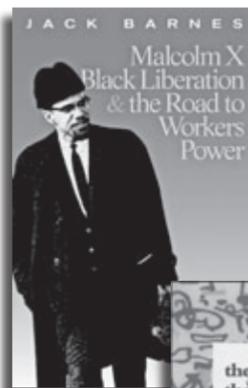
Sept. 15 demonstration in Moscow protesting rule of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Many at action expressed support to jailed members of feminist punk-rock band Pussy Riot.

Last week other members of Pussy Riot released a new video in which they thank artists and others around the world who back their fight. The video features three other members of the band rappelling down a wall and setting fire to a portrait of Putin. "We've been fighting for the right to sing, to think, to criti-

cize. To be musicians and artists, ready to do everything to change our country no matter the risks," they exclaim. "The fight for freedom is an endless battle that is bigger than life."

According to the *Moscow Times*, support rallies will take place in more than 100 cities around the world Oct. 1.

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Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes

Why the "revolutionary conquest of state power by a politically class-conscious and organized vanguard of the working class—millions strong—is necessary."

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by Jack Barnes

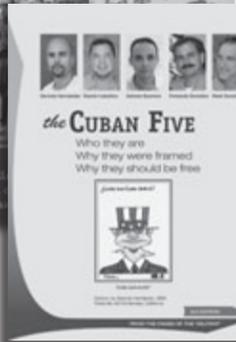
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The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free

articles and interviews from the *Militant*

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See distributors on page 8

Washington's murderous wars and drone assaults, from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Africa and the Middle East; the cop massacre of union mineworkers in South Africa; the joblessness, devastation of living standards, land dispossession and other assaults on workers and peasants across the semicolonial world... and much more.

Workers are hungry for an explanation of the truth about where the crisis comes from and what our class can do about it. There is openness to the communist course presented by the Socialist Workers Party 2012 campaign, the working class, labor, socialist alternative to the Obama and Romney tickets and other candidates of the bosses' parties.

Through door-to-door sales, not only can we increase the number of new subscribers and long-term renewals to the *Militant*. We'll also expand the numbers of us who are working alongside each other to get the paper around, as we take part together in labor solidarity actions, social protests and other political activity.

Working people face sustained high unemployment—no job growth in the U.S. more than three years into a so-called "economic recovery"—rising prices of food, gas, and other basics, and employer attacks on wages, conditions and safety on the job.

The buildup of these pressures for half a decade—what might be called "the long discouragement"—intensifies competition among workers for jobs, takes a toll on confidence, and stacks the deck in favor of the employing class. Strikes and lockouts—those that stretch over months like the lockout of sugar workers at American Crystal Sugar in North Dakota and Minnesota, as well as those that last just a day or a week—often end in concessions.

Employers see such outcomes simply as progress in beefing up their bottom line. What they don't see is not only that workers come out of these fights more united, but that alongside such experiences a longer-term discussion in preparation for coming battles is taking place in the working class.

Through these experiences, more

workers are helping get the *Militant* around—on the job, and with others in their areas who feel the same way. They recognize the paper as a way to get to know other working people and learn about the conditions and struggles of workers and farmers the world over.

Many become interested in books that explain the political lessons and traditions of working people engaged in the fight for political power over the past 150 years and more. Four such titles are on special offer with a subscription: *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism* by Jack Barnes; *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* by Martín Koppel and Mary-Alice Waters; *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* by Vilma Espin, Asela de los Santos, and Yolanda Ferrer; and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes. (See ad on this page).

Teams going door to door in working-class neighborhoods introducing the *Militant* and books can get under way right now.

Contact distributors of the paper in your area, listed on page 8. Ask them to come and work with you to meet friends, coworkers, or fellow students at a neighbor's house or apartment, at a coffee shop or in a picket shack. Order a bundle. Get subscription blanks.

In a note on page 3, two readers from Yakima, Wash., explain they've recently been drawn politically to the activity of workers they've come to know who are "knocking on doors, distributing literature like the *Militant* newspaper and books such as *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, and standing in solidarity with fights against workplace repression worldwide."

The combined efforts of readers like these will make the *Militant's* big subscription effort a success. A report on quotas taken by the paper's supporters in local areas, along with the overall international goal, will be reported in a coming issue.

'Fight to free the Cuban 5 is a fight for ourselves'

Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda keynote speaker at D.C. event

BY GLOVA SCOTT
AND PAUL PEDERSON

WASHINGTON—"Why do we fight for the five? This is a fight for ourselves. We are not doing them a favor, we are doing ourselves a favor."

This was the message Rafael Cancel Miranda, a leader of the fight for Puerto Rican independence who spent 27 years in U.S. prisons for his intransigent opposition to U.S. colonial domination of his country, conveyed when he spoke at a meeting here Sept. 14 demanding freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries: Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González.

More than 100 turned out for the meeting, marking 14 years since the FBI's Sept. 12 night-raid arrests and subsequent frame-up of the Cuban Five, as they are known internationally.

Cancel Miranda, the event's keynote speaker, was imprisoned in 1954 after he and three other Puerto Rican independence fighters walked into the U.S. Capitol in Washington, unfurled a Puerto Rican flag and fired pistols, wounding five congressmen. In 1979 he and four other Puerto Rican nationalist prisoners were released under mounting political pressure.

A resurgence of the Puerto Rican independence movement—heightened by the struggle for Black liberation and mass opposition to the U.S. war in Vietnam—accelerated in the early 1970s. Leading up to the prisoners' release, working people were dealing ma-

yor blows to U.S. imperialism around the world, including Washington's 1975 defeat in Vietnam and the 1979 revolutionary victories in Nicaragua, Grenada and Iran only months before they were freed.

"There was an international campaign," Cancel Miranda explained. "The United States was going around the world talking about human rights—human rights!—but then people would ask, what about the five nationalists? Why have they been in jail for so long?"

"Today the international campaign is helping to keep the Cuban Five alive," said Cancel Miranda. "We're protecting their lives. The more people know about this, the more indignant they will be and more people will fight for them. I am still alive because of people like you."

"Thanks to the five," said Cancel Miranda, "thousands have been enlightened about who the enemy is."

Other speakers included Tom Hayden, editorial board member of the *Nation*; Liz Derias of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement; Michelle Tingling-Clemmons of the African Awareness Association; and José Pertierra, a lawyer for the Venezuelan government in its efforts to extradite CIA-trained Cuban counterrevolutionary Luis Posada Carriles, wanted in Venezuela on 73 counts of murder.

In the front row of the audience was Ambassador Jorge Bolaños, Chief of the Cuban Interests Section here. Vicente Feliú, a world renowned *nueva trova* musician from Cuba, performed several numbers. Two days earlier, a concert here by Feliú, dedicated to the five, drew a standing room only audience of nearly 200.

Derias talked about the conditions millions of men and women, disproportionately African-Americans, face in U.S. prisons today. She drew attention to the expanding use of long stints of solitary confinement like those meted out to the Cuban Five, designed to break and demoralize workers behind bars.

Pertierra described in detail the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner, masterminded by Posada, that killed 73 people. The bombing is an example of the kind of murderous acts the five were trying to prevent by monitoring and informing



Militant/Glova Scott

Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda speaks at Washington, D.C., meeting Sept. 14 on fight to free five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the U.S. Cancel Miranda spent 27 years for standing up to U.S. domination of Puerto Rico.

the Cuban government of activities of armed counterrevolutionary groups in southern Florida.

Arrested, framed up and convicted by Washington, they were given sentences ranging from 15 years to double life plus 15 years, opening yet another front in the U.S. rulers' unrelenting campaign to punish Cuba's working people for making and defending a socialist revolution 90 miles from U.S. shores.

"Cuba sent five men to protect themselves from these terrorists," Pertierra said. "Cuba provided files of information on their activities, assuming the U.S. government would arrest them. Instead, they arrested the five."

Pertierra was referring to a June 1998 meeting between officials from the FBI and Cuban State Security in which the FBI was given voluminous evidence collected by Cuban intelligence on plans for assassinations, bombings, and other murderous acts by counterrevolutionary groups based in the United States.

A message from Angela Davis was read at the meeting. "There can be no doubt that my freedom and that of others, like Rafael Cancel Miranda, was won because of relentless pressure by a movement that refused to go away," said Davis, who in 1972, and at the time a member of the U.S. Communist Party, was acquitted on trumped-up charges of murder, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy after 18 months in jail.

"While Cuba stands as a beacon of possibility for other nations striving for sovereignty," Davis said, "the Cuban Five represent the ongoing commitment to protect a people who have chosen the path of socialism."

The meeting opened with a short video in which actors Danny Glover and Peter Coyote reenact testimony at the 2001 trial of the Cuban Five from then retired Gen. James Clapper, a government witness who is today director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Clapper testifies that Cuba is "absolutely not" a military threat to the United States and states that there is no evidence they ever engaged in espionage.

The event was sponsored by the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five and endorsed by the D.C. Metro Coalition to Free the Five, Institute for Policy Studies, National

Network on Cuba and the Takoma Park Free the Five Committee.

One of the highlights of the event was a message from Labañino.

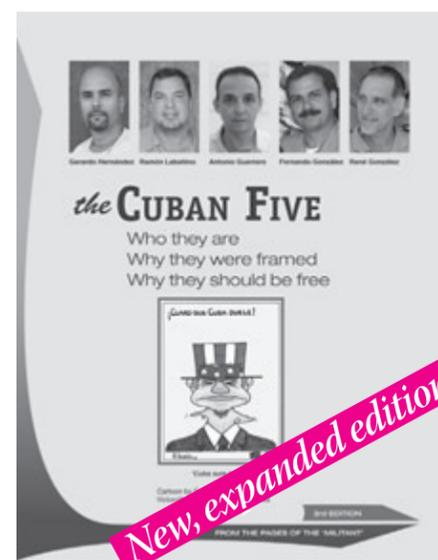
"We have lived truly difficult moments, lockouts in cells of hellish punishment for prolonged periods (something that in spite of being against every human right, is becoming more common in this country), violation of our legal and constitutional rights, lies, distortions, infamies," wrote Labañino.

"But the struggle continues. We should be more united and stronger each time, with more solidarity, until we achieve final victory."

In a similar message, read at the Feliú concert two days earlier, Guerrero asked, "Why does the United States blockade us? Why does it support terrorism against Cuba? Why does it nourish a group of mercenaries who call themselves dissidents? Why does it constantly distort our reality? My first answer, and I believe it summarizes everything, is: Because they want to kill the example."

Special Offer

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Now includes timeline and other new features, articles and interviews reprinted from the *Militant*.

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Who are the Cuban Five

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups operating in southern Florida. These paramilitary outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with "conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information."

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government's 1996 shutdown of two aircraft flown by counterrevolutionary group Brothers to the Rescue that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana's repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years.

All but René González remain in prison. Since October he has been serving a three-year "supervised release." On the pretext of his dual citizenship, he has been denied his request to return to Cuba. His wife, Olga Salanueva, is barred from entering the United States, as is Adriana Pérez, the wife of Hernández.

Malcolm X on racism behind fear of 'population explosion'

Below is an excerpt from Malcolm X Speaks. This collection of 14 speeches is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. The selection reprinted here is from a speech Malcolm X gave April 8, 1964, at a meeting sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum at Palm Gardens in New York City.

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BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MALCOLM X

Friends and enemies: Tonight I hope that we can have a little fireside chat with as few sparks as possible being tossed around. Especially because of the very explosive condition that the world is in today.

Sometimes, when a person's house is on fire and someone comes in yelling fire, instead of the person who is awakened by the yell being thankful, he makes the mistake of charging the one who awakened him with having set the fire. I hope that this little conversation tonight about the black revolution won't cause many of you to accuse us of igniting it when you find it at your doorstep. ...

During recent years there has been much talk about a population explosion. Whenever they are speaking of the population explosion, in my opin-



Robert Parent

Malcolm X speaking at Militant Labor Forum April 8, 1964, at Palm Gardens in New York.

ion they are referring primarily to the people in Asia or in Africa—the black, brown, red, and yellow people. It is seen by people of the West that, as soon as the standard of living is raised in Africa and Asia, automatically the people begin to reproduce abundantly.

And there has been a great deal of fear engendered by this in the minds of the people of the West, who happen to be, on this earth, a very small minority.

In fact, in most of the thinking and planning of whites in the West today, it's easy to see the fear in their minds, conscious minds and subconscious minds, that the masses of dark people in the East, who already outnumber them, will continue to increase and multiply and grow until they eventually overrun the people of the West like a human sea, a human tide, a human flood.

And the fear of this can be seen in the minds, in the actions, of most of the people here in the West in practically everything that they do. It governs their political views and it governs their economic views and it governs most of their attitudes toward the present society.

I was listening to Dirksen, the senator from Illinois, in Washington, D.C., filibustering the civil-rights bill; and

one thing that he kept stressing over and over and over was that if this bill is passed, it will change the social structure of America.

Well, I know what he's getting at, and I think that most other people today, and especially our people, know what is meant when these whites, who filibuster these bills, express fears of changes in the social structure. Our people are beginning to realize what they mean.

Just as we can see that all over the world one of the main problems facing the West is race, likewise here in America today, most of your Negro leaders as well as the whites agree that 1964 itself appears to be one of the most explosive years yet in the history of America on the racial front, on the racial scene.

Not only is this racial explosion probably to take place in America, but all of the ingredients for this racial explosion in America to blossom into a world-wide racial explosion present themselves right here in front of us. America's racial powder keg, in short, can actually fuse or ignite a world-wide powder keg.

There are whites in this country who are still complacent when they see the possibilities of racial strife getting out

of hand. You are complacent simply because you think you outnumber the racial minority in this country; what you have to bear in mind is wherein you might outnumber us in this country, you don't outnumber us all over the earth.

Any kind of racial explosion that takes place in this country today, in 1964, is not a racial explosion that can be confined to the shores of America. It is a racial explosion that can ignite the racial powder keg that exists all over the planet that we call earth.

I think that nobody would disagree that the dark masses of Africa and Asia and Latin America are already seething with bitterness, animosity, hostility, unrest, and impatience with the racial intolerance that they themselves have experienced at the hands of the white West. ...

There is no system more corrupt than a system that represents itself as the example of freedom, the example of democracy, and can go all over this earth telling other people how to straighten out their house, when you have citizens of this country who have to use bullets if they want to cast a ballot. ...

Revolutions are fought to get control of land, to remove the absentee landlord and gain control of the land and the institutions that flow from that land. The black man has been in a very low condition because he has had no control whatsoever over any land. He has been a beggar economically, a beggar politically, a beggar socially, a beggar even when it comes to trying to get some education.

The past type of mentality, that was developed in this colonial system among our people, today is being overcome. And as the young ones come up, they know what they want. And as they listen to your beautiful preaching about democracy and all those other flowery words, they know what they're supposed to have.

So you have a people today who not only know what they want, but also know what they are supposed to have. And they themselves are creating another generation that is coming up that not only will know what it wants and know what it should have, but also will be ready and willing to do whatever is necessary to see that what they should have materializes immediately.

September BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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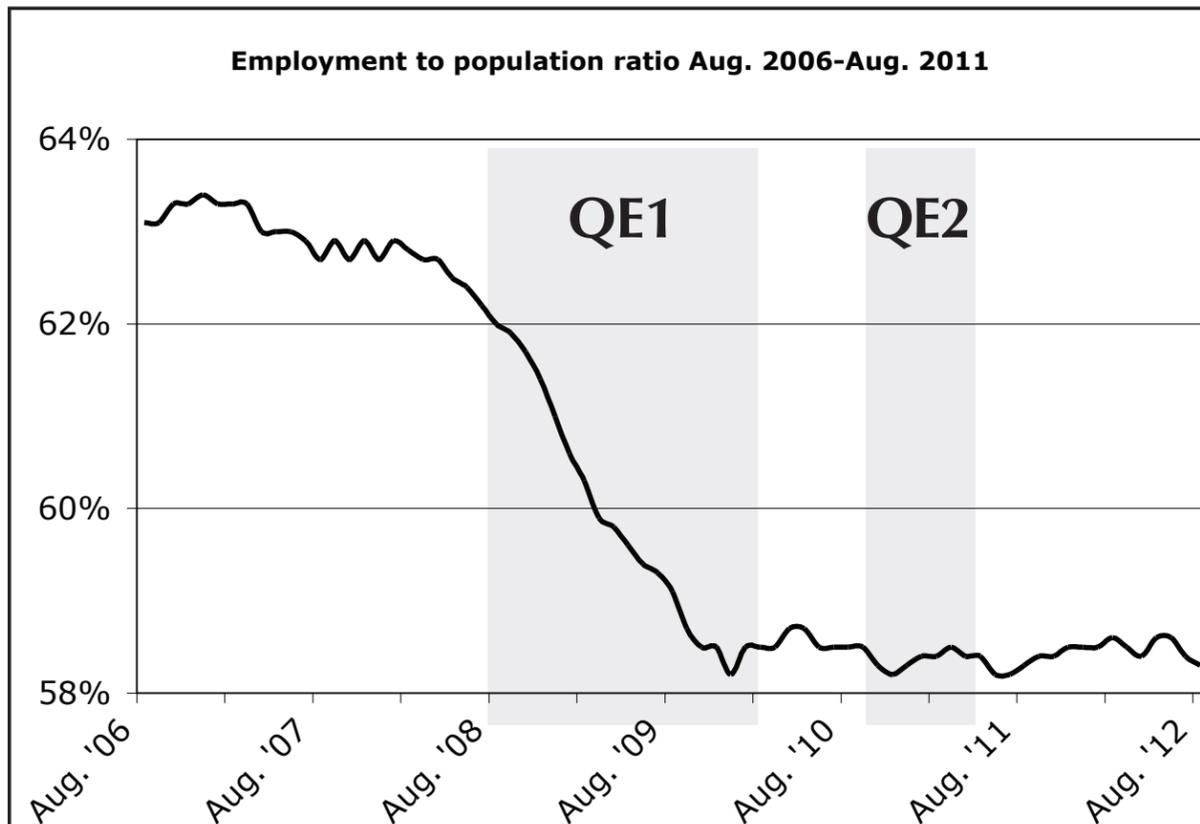
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Fed's third money printing scheme



Graph shows percentage of population that is employed and negligible impact of "quantitative easing" programs.

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rates close to zero at least until 2015. The idea is to discourage capitalists from parking money in bonds and instead invest in production and hiring, despite the fact that close-to-zero interest rates over the last several years have yet to show any sign of this desired effect.

Bernanke's announcement, which the *New York Times* called "a response to the grim reality that more than 20 million Americans cannot find full-time jobs," had an aura of desperation about it. It comes amid "signs that a double-dip recession of a significant magnitude is in the cards," Charles Gasparino wrote in the Sept. 13 *New York Post*.

"The Fed has created all this money in the last couple of years," Lawrence Kudlow reported in the Sept. 14 *New York Sun*, pointing to the central bank's two previous forays into quantitative easing. "But it hasn't worked: \$1.6 trillion of excess bank reserves are still sitting idle at the Fed. No use. No risk. Virtually no loans."

In addition, corporations themselves have some \$2 trillion in cash stashed aside. But still somehow, we're told, printing more money will "stimulate" bosses to expand production and hiring.

But as the U.S. economy slows down, capitalists have put their money in the stock market and other speculative activity. To the degree they invest capital in production they have focused on "labor saving" speedup designed to squeeze more work out of less workers.

U.S. manufacturers announced that new orders fell to their lowest level since 2009. The Fed's moves come as "almost every major economy in the world is seeing its manufacturing sector contract," the *Wall Street Journal* reported Sept. 20.

Stocks are close to being "more overvalued than they have ever been," noted fund manager John Hussman in his Sept. 17 circular for investors.

Despite what official unemployment statistics say, there has been no recovery in employment since its plunge leveled out at the opening of 2010. The ratio of employment to population—which unlike unemployment statistics can't easily be calculated to obscure reality—has remained stagnant. There is no sign that QE1 and QE2 had even a temporary effect of any significance.

However, the increasing money supply can only add to mounting pressures that eventually lead to explosive bursts of inflation with ruinous consequences for working people.

And low interest rates hit the elderly, who depend on interest from savings and pensions, which "are now certain to remain only a tad above zero," the *Weekly Standard* reported Sept. 15.

One intended consequence of QE3 is to push down the value of the dollar relative to currencies of Europe, Japan and elsewhere, making U.S. goods cheaper on the world market. "[T]o rekindle the flames of growth in manufacturing," the *Investor's Business Daily* said, "the dollar will have to fall against other major currencies."

The resulting heightened tension among competing imperialist powers is already evident.

Earlier this month, the European Union's Central Bank announced it planned to buy up debt from eurozone countries, which is similarly aimed at lowering the relative value of the euro.

The Bank of Japan announced Sept. 19 it would "stimulate Japan's moribund economy," the *Journal* said, "driving down the value of the yen to help the nation's exporters."

Socialist Workers candidate in New Zealand

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On Sept. 13, Harris met with six activists involved in a yearlong fight by state house tenants in Glen Innes, a working-class district of Auckland with a large Maori and Pacific Island population. Some 150 families are facing eviction from their low-rent homes by the sea to make way for the development of affluent private dwellings. "They don't want us in their areas," Aroha Robson told Harris.

"In the U.S. they talk about a housing crisis, but they mean something different than we do," Harris said. "The rulers view housing, like health and education, as a commodity to make profits from. But for working people, these are needs. We want to stop things being commodities and make them the possessions of working people, because they are all a product of our labor."

During his visit, Harris was interviewed by Chris Laidlaw for his Sept. 16 Sunday Morning program on Radio New Zealand, the country's main nationwide public radio station.

Harris' tour wrapped up at a Militant Labor Forum here Sept. 13 attended by 35 people, including eight young people and a dockworker coming to his first such meeting.

The forum began with greetings from Amanda Chase, a worker at Canterbury Meat Packers Rangitikei and shop steward for the Meat Workers Union. Chase was a leader of a nine-week fight last year against CMP's attempts to impose deep cuts in wages and conditions at the plant. She traveled to Auckland Sept. 11 and joined Harris in campaigning over the next three days.

"When you go back to work, the battle continues—it will never be over," she said. "We lost our battle, but I personally won—I discovered who I was. Don't be disappointed when you lose battles, because there will be plenty more and through our battles, our numbers will increase."

Russell Mayn, secretary of Local 13 of the Maritime Union, also joined Harris on the panel.

Chicago teachers

Continued from front page

ment coverage. The dispute represented a foray against teachers in a bipartisan battle to deal blows to teachers' unions in a drive to cut government expenses. The timing of the assault and fact that it was led by Emanuel, former chief of staff to President Barack Obama, generated some concern within the Democratic Party for what impact the dispute might have on the presidential election.

The teachers received widespread support from working people here. Strike support rallies in downtown Chicago drew thousands of workers from a wide range of unions.

At the same time, Emanuel's demagogic attack on the teachers on the pretext of seeking to improve public education got a hearing.

And the argument among many teachers that it isn't fair to evaluate them based on student performance because of the low-quality of the clay they are asked to mold didn't help them. During the dispute Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis made disparaging statements toward working-class students and their families.

The Sept. 14 *Washington Post* wrote that "according to Lewis ... there are factors beyond the control of teachers—poverty, exposure to violence, homelessness, hunger—that prevent children from learning. 'I wonder how well you would learn your ABCs in an overcrowded classroom where 10 percent of the children have asthma, 20 percent didn't get a good night's sleep and another 30 percent are recovering from witnessing a shooting in their neighborhood?'"

"I am hitting it hard in the classroom, giving it everything I have," Romanetha Walker Looper, who teaches middle-school science, told Reuters, echoing Lewis' sentiments. "But the students at my school," she paused, searching for words, "I'm their mother, teacher, nurse and psychologist."

Contract proposals

Sharing many features of the Bush administration's "No Child Left Behind" scheme, the Obama administration's "Race To The Top" initiative requires state governments to impose teacher evaluations based on student test results and expand charter schools if they are to receive billions of dollars in federal funding.

In 2010 the Illinois state legislature passed a law mandating that student test scores count for 25 percent of a teacher's evaluation for two years, and 30 percent thereafter.

In 2011 the legislature voted that school boards could use teacher evaluations in considering tenure and layoffs.

The Chicago contract proposal includes making teachers' jobs dependent on their students' test scores, but limited their impact on teacher evaluations to 30 percent. School officials had proposed to have test scores count for 40 percent of teacher evaluations.

The three-year contract proposal includes an increase in base wages of 3 percent the first year and two subsequent 2 percent raises. "We will be working for free," Debra Windham, a teacher at Bond Elementary, told the *Militant*, pointing to the fact that the contract includes longer work hours and a longer calendar year.

The union successfully beat back demands to substitute merit pay or other "pay for performance" schemes for wage levels guaranteed by the contract.

Teachers will continue to receive "step" pay increases for their years of experience and "lane" raises for getting a masters degree or other graduate credits.

Another contract demand made by Emanuel and the School Board was to deny teachers who are laid off any recall rights.

The new contract would guarantee that at least half of all new hires would come from laid-off teachers with good evaluations. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, the school officials said that some laid-off teachers will be given substitute jobs to fulfill the 50 percent requirement.

The board is considering plans to close 80 to 120 "failing" schools, which will mean thousands of teachers laid off.