

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Cuban 5 art exhibit held in Montreal,
Labañino wins transfer out of Miami
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 6 FEBRUARY 18, 2013

Join new 5-week drive to win readers of 'Militant'!

BY LOUIS MARTIN

The *Militant* urges readers to join a Feb. 9-March 18 international campaign to win some 1,900 subscribers to the socialist newsweekly and sell hundreds of books on revolutionary working-class politics.

Like a similar nine-week drive last fall that netted 3,350 subscribers, the new campaign will be centered on going door to door in working-class neighborhoods.

"The *Militant* is published for the working class," John Studer, a leader of the New York branch of the Socialist Workers Party, said in an interview. "Over the last few months, going door to door, we have found workers know they are in the middle of a growing crisis of the capitalist system, and the propertied rulers are going after our jobs, our working and living conditions, our unions and our rights."

"Workers see the *Militant* as part of an absolutely necessary discussion about what we can do to meet these attacks," Studer said. "They read about examples of fights against attacks on the unions, police brutality, women's right to abortion—all over the world."

"They read about the history of
Continued on page 3

NY school bus strikers win workers' solidarity

Call February 10 support march and rally



Wirman David Lopez

Contingent of Boston bus drivers joins Feb. 2 march in New York to support striking school bus workers. City officials and bus companies want to bust union, drive down wages, benefits.

BY SARA LOBMAN

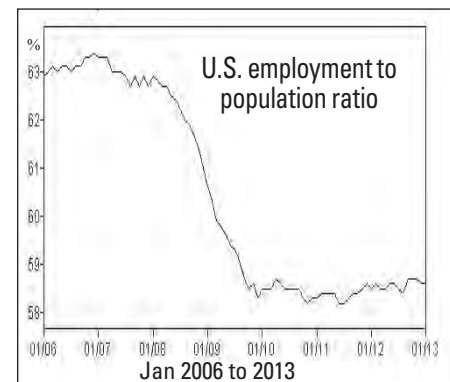
NEW YORK—School bus workers, members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181 on strike here since Jan. 16, have been winning solidarity from other workers in the city and beyond while city officials refuse to negotiate.

Two dozen school bus drivers from Boston, members of the Steelworkers union, made the 200-mile trip to the

city Feb. 2. They joined a rally of about 300 strikers, parents, and other supporters, followed by a car caravan that drove past New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's residence and then visited two picket lines in the Bronx. The caravan was organized by Parents to Improve School Transportation.

Continued on page 9

3 years of high unemployment: US gov't won't act to create jobs



BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Real U.S. unemployment levels remain largely unchanged in the first month of 2013 from where they bottomed out at the opening of 2010. At the same time production has slowed further in recent months.

**WORKERS NEED TO FIGHT FOR
GOV'T-FUNDED JOBS PROGRAM**

—editorial, p. 9

While the government has done nothing to create more jobs or increase production, the Federal Reserve continues to pump money into the banks, stock prices are high and government

Continued on page 5

Egypt: Two years after Mubarak, workers continue fight for rights



AP photo

Jan. 28 funeral protest in Port Said for those killed as anti-government protests rocked city.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Two years after the ouster of Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak and almost eight months after Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohammed Morsi was elected president, Egypt's capitalist rulers are still unable to close down political space won in

struggle by working people there.

Thousands demonstrated in Tahrir Square Jan. 25 as part of nationwide protests against Morsi and the Brotherhood, the largest capitalist party in Egypt, and against recent measures restricting democratic, la-

Continued on page 6

Washington, UN Security Council tighten sanctions on North Korea

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved tighter sanctions on North Korea Jan. 22 in retaliation for launching a satellite into space Dec. 12.

The Security Council demanded that Pyongyang "not conduct any fur-

ther launches that use ballistic missile technology." The day of the launch the White House released a statement from the National Security Council calling it "a highly provocative act that threatens regional security ... and undermines the global non-proliferation regime."

The governments that voted for the resolution know that "ballistic missile technology is the only means for launching a satellite," the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's

Continued on page 9

'Volunteers welcome to help get socialists on Omaha ballot'

BY JOE SWANSON

OMAHA, Neb.—The sun was shining. More volunteers, more *Militant* subscriptions sold, more sales of books on revolutionary working-class politics and more working people signed up here to place on the ballot Maura DeLuca for mayor and Jacob Perasso for City Council District 4.

Four hundred eighty-three people signed petitions for DeLuca and 69 for Perasso over the Feb. 2-3 week-

Continued on page 4

Also Inside:

Women and Revolution: Living Example of Cuban Revolution 2

North Chicago coroner: Hanna died from cop beating 4

Tokyo steps up use of military strengthens US, other alliances 6

Sankara: 'Malian soldiers no longer prisoners, but brothers' 8

‘Women and Revolution: Living example of Cuban Revolution’

Talks in Havana enrich politics of ‘Women in Cuba’ book

Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters, Arelys Santana and Leira Sánchez. 59 pages. Pathfinder Press, 2013.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Women and Revolution both merits its own reading and serves as a strong complement to *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*, published by Pathfinder Press last year.

IN REVIEW

The new 59-page book helps draw out the most important political lessons of *Women in Cuba* and helps the reader see its relevance for working-class struggle today.

Women and Revolution contains four talks on *Women in Cuba* given at the launching of the book at the 2012 Havana International Book Fair. Speakers included Asela de los Santos, a historic leader of the Cuban Revolution; Leira Sánchez, a member of the National Bureau of Cuba’s Union of Young Communists; Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and editor of the book; and Arelys Santana, second secretary of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), who introduced the panel.

The booklet also reprints the introduction to *Women in Cuba* by Waters. Its opening lines let the reader know what the book deals with: “This is a

book about the Cuban Revolution. It is about the millions of working people—men and women, of all ages—who have made that socialist revolution, and how their actions transformed them as they fought to transform their world.”

De los Santos was a combatant in the Cuban revolutionary movement before the 1959 victorious overthrow of the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista.

Talking about the first section of *Women in Cuba*, she summarizes the value of the struggle before the revolutionary victory. “In the mountains and in the underground groups, equality and fraternity, solidarity and friendship, truth and justice, work, generosity, and respect for human dignity prevailed over the mediocrity, pettiness, selfishness, and prejudices of all types that were imposed by the times of slavery, rooted in mind and behavior by centuries of colonial rule.”

Through the contributions of Sánchez and Santana, you get a feel for the importance for revolutionaries in Cuba—from all generations—of studying the rich lessons of the Cuban Revolution from those who made it.

Waters explains why Pathfinder published the book and “why it is important in the United States and elsewhere outside Cuba to the increasing numbers of workers who are searching for ways to effectively resist. ...

“The living example of the men and women who made the Cuban Revolution, and are still making it,

LA port trucker: ‘We did it, you guys can do it, too!’



“We did it. You guys can do it too, brother,” Panni Hunt, right, a Toll Group driver in the Port of Los Angeles, tells a fellow truck driver. The screen shot above is from a video posted to YouTube in which Hunt and his coworkers leaflet other truckers along the terminal lines to spread the word about their recent union victory.

On Dec. 30, members of Teamsters Local 848 ratified an agreement with Toll Group after a two-year fight. The contract secures wage increases of \$6 an hour plus 50 cents an hour annual raise during the three-year contract, over-time pay, lower health care costs, paid holidays, sick days, personal days, vacation time and enrollment in Teamsters Western Conference Pension Trust Fund.

“I’ve been passing out pamphlets for about an hour and everybody wants to fight,” Hunt tells viewers at the end of the video. “They want to do the same thing that the Toll drivers did. They can do it. I’m here to encourage them so they can fight for something better for themselves and their families.”

The video can be viewed at the following link: <http://youtu.be/r-2xAq511mA>

—EMMA JOHNSON

needs to be known,” said Waters, “because working people everywhere, sooner or later, are being pushed toward revolutionary action.” This record, she said, “is indispensable to the revolutionary continuity of the working class.”

Waters stresses why “the Cuban Revolution is distinguished from all previous revolutions since the beginning of the modern working-class movement.”

Both de los Santos and Waters describe the interaction between the Rebel Army combatants and the exploited, landless peasants and agricultural workers and the growing involvement of women in the ranks of the leadership.

“Interaction opens the way for the formation of new human beings, one of the main guidelines of revolutionary work,” says de los Santos. “For women this process meant, in practice, a personal revolution: revolutionizing their thinking and actions, leading them to fight the customs of the past.”

The organizational structures, including the Federation of Cuban Women itself, “grew out of the goals” of the revolution “and above all were the product of deeds leading to the accomplishment of those goals,” Waters says. Leaders led in practice and action, everything began with deeds.

The FMC, established in 1960, grew out of this participation, not the other way around, speakers emphasized. Women insisted on organizing themselves and being organized into its most pressing tasks. In the process they created an organization that would enable them to do just that.

De los Santos’ closing words highlight the value of *Women in Cuba* and the collaborative work that went into making it. The book, she said, “underscores our unbreakable friendship and our determination to remain united, working for the revolution, here in Cuba and there in the United States.”

THE MILITANT

Roots of unfolding war in Mali

The ‘Militant’ covers conditions facing toilers in Mali as they confront a war involving Tuareg nationalist rebels, reactionary Islamist forces, various ethnic militias, and government forces backed by French imperialist troops. Don’t miss an issue.



Eric Feferberg/AFP/Getty Images
Ahmed Baba Centre for Documentation and Research in Timbuktu, Mali, Jan. 29, where Islamist forces burnt ancient manuscripts.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

The Militant

Vol. 77/No. 6

Closing news date: February 6, 2013

Editor: Doug Nelson

Associate editor: John Studer

Circulation director: Louis Martin

Editorial volunteers: Tom Baumann, Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Seth Galinsky, Eleanor García, Emma Johnson, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in July, and two weeks in September.

Business manager: Lea Sherman

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 send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia. Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Subscription campaign

Continued from front page

past revolutionary struggles, from the 1917 Russian Revolution to Malcolm X, the labor battles that built the CIO in the 1930s to the still-living Cuban Revolution. And many want to help us get the paper around.”

New York is considering a goal of 260, more than 50 subscriptions a week, Studer said.

Mapping out plans

Militant readers from many areas have begun discussing ambitious local quotas to focus their efforts to win as many new readers as possible and help push their political work more deeply into the working class.

“Distributors in Chicago are getting plans together so that the first weekend of the subscription campaign gets off to a big start,” Alyson Kennedy wrote.

“During the last drive, two *Militant* readers who had never sold the paper got involved in selling door to door. They are both on board for this one,” she added.

Charlie Brown, a CNC machine operator at Electro-Motive Diesel, is one of these new distributors in Chicago.

“Knocking on doors is important because you see individuals face to face, person to person. The *Militant* is an eye opener to what is going on in the world—from Chicago and Indiana to Australia. We all should get involved,” he said.

Kennedy described how during the last campaign, one focus of the door-to-door effort in Chicago was concentrated in several African-American working-class neighborhoods in District 2 where Socialist Workers Party candidate John Hawkins is running for Congress. Dozens of subscriptions were sold there.

“We plan to go back to these areas where we got a good response to talk to workers who we missed before and to those who subscribed,” she said. “We also plan to go to working-class neighborhoods where distributors live, because these are the places where it’s easiest to get involved with those who want to help.”

Hugo Wils sent a report about what *Militant* supporters in Manchester, England, are planning.

“We will start by going back to areas where we got the best response in the last two subscription drives,” he wrote. “This will make it easier for people who have joined us going door to door with the *Militant* and discussing working-class issues on the doorsteps, as they live in these areas.”

“It is also a good way to follow up on subscribers won during our last drive, to see whether they would like to renew, are interested in some of the book offers or maybe know some friends or relatives who would be interested in a paper that voices a working-class perspective,” Wils said.

Eight books are now offered at reduced prices with a subscription to the *Militant*—four more titles than during the last drive. (See ad below.)

“Supporters of the *Militant* in Seattle,” wrote Mary Martin, “are preparing to carry the *Militant*, a supplement to the paper featuring the introduction to the newly published *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own*, as well as the actual book and an armload of other books on working-class struggles and history, from Africa to Cuba to the U.S.”

“When you are ready to do a subscription drive again, I am ready to help,” said *Militant* reader Stalin



Militant/John Naubert

“When you are ready for a subscription drive again, I am ready to help,” said barber Stalin Harrison, left, when hearing about new campaign. He is shown above with *Militant* distributor Edwin Fruit Oct. 24 in his barber shop in Seattle, where he sold six subscriptions last fall.

Harrison, a barber in Seattle who signed up six new readers out of his shop last fall.

“Most workers here,” wrote Michel Dugré from Montreal, “speak French and can’t really read English or Spanish. *Militant* distributors here and in other parts of the world collaborate to translate one of the central articles in the paper into French each week, and we use that to help introduce the paper to workers.

“We will also take advantage of the special offer on two more books in French by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, West Africa,” Dugré said.

“These books will help deepen our discussions with the many workers who closely follow the current events in Mali,” he added.

Going widely to the working class in order to get a real measure of what

broad layers of workers face and what they think is a key aspect of selling the *Militant* door to door.

“Last weekend, nearly everyone we spoke to in the apartment building we visited in Harlem supported the striking school bus workers,” John Studer said about the two-person team he was part of, referring to the 8,800 drivers, attendants and mechanics on strike in New York since Jan. 16. “We sold four subscriptions, a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and two copies of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*.” (See article on front page.)

Another team of *Militant* supporters who went to the Electchester housing complex in Queens had a different experience, Deborah Liatos reported.

“While some workers were very much in support of the strike, others just shut their door,” she said. “Some workers feel the pressure of the bosses’ propaganda against the strike.”

The Sunday afternoon regular door-to-door sales of the *Militant* in New York have been the heart of how socialist workers have built solidarity with this important labor struggle.

“Coming out of the drive, the SWP will be holding a national convention here in New York,” Studer said. “We are looking forward to inviting workers who have joined in winning new readers to participate.”

‘Should be everybody’s newspaper’

“Just to thank you again for all the support you gave us during our strike at Pioneer Flour Mill,” Salvador Garay emailed to the *Militant* Feb. 3.

Garay is a member of Teamsters Local 657 in San Antonio, Texas. The *Militant* has published several articles since April 2011 on their strike against C.H. Guenther & Sons Pioneer Flour Mill in that city.

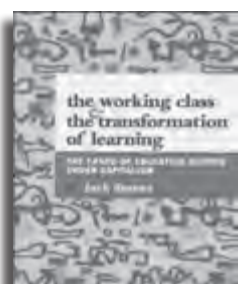
“Thank God for real journalists who write the truth and don’t sell themselves to companies. The *Militant* should be everyone’s newspaper for the truth,” Garay added.

If you agree with him, help expand the circulation and readership of the paper among working people.

You can order a bundle or subscription blanks at themilitant@mac.com or (212) 244-4899 or call distributors in your area. (See directory on page 8.)

Quotas for the new campaign will be printed along with results of the first weekend of the drive in next week’s issue.

Special offers with ‘Militant’ subscription



The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes

\$2 with a subscription to the *Militant* (usually \$3)



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

by Jack Barnes

\$10 with subscription (usually \$20)



We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions

Speeches from the Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87

by Thomas Sankara

\$5 with subscription (usually \$10)

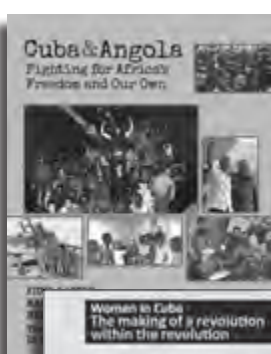


Thomas Sankara Speaks

The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-1987

by Thomas Sankara

\$10 with subscription (usually \$24)



Cuba and Angola

Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own

by Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro; Cuban generals and combatants; Gabriel García Márquez

Publication offer: \$9 till March 31
\$6 with subscription (usually \$12)



Women in Cuba:

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution

by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer

\$10 with subscription (usually \$20)

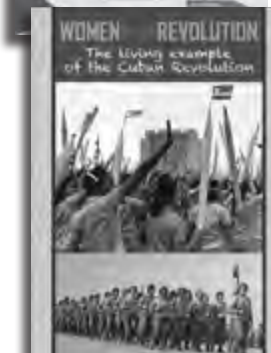


The Cuban Five

Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free

from pages of the Militant

\$3 with subscription (usually \$5)



Women and Revolution

The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution

by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others

Publication offer: \$5 till March 31
\$3 with subscription (usually \$7)

See distributors
on page 8

Chicago SWP candidate: ‘fight for jobs program’

BY BETSY FARLEY

CHICAGO—“I love the fact that you’re out here on foot, finding out what the issues are,” Finesse Payne, a 21-year-old nursing home worker told socialist candidate John Hawkins, who was knocking on doors to talk with working people on the South Side here where he is running in the special election for Illinois’ 2nd Congressional District.

“I make \$9.25 an hour and get \$150 taken out of every check in taxes,” Payne said. “What are you going to do for the people who work?”

“I’m a worker just like you,” responded Hawkins. “I work in a factory not far from here. I think we need to fight for a massive public works program to put millions to work building and renovating schools and hospitals and to build a nationwide network of medical clinics, not close them down.”

“You’re right,” Payne responded. “Instead, they close schools and build more jails.”

“Neither the Democrats nor Republicans propose anything to solve the unemployment crisis,” stated Hawkins. “The socialist campaign is different. We join every struggle of working people for jobs, against attacks on our wages and unions, for the rights of Blacks, women, and immigrants.”

“We oppose all taxes on working people,” Hawkins continued. “We should not be the ones to pay for the crisis of their system.”

Construction worker Glenn Fisher was just leaving work repairing a floor at a house in the neighborhood when he greeted Hawkins. “It’s going to take people standing up and not being afraid any more,” Fisher said, as he bought a copy of the *Militant*, the campaign newspaper.

“That’s what my campaign is about, people standing up and fighting back,” Hawkins said. “Working people also need to organize politically, independent of the two capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans. Ultimately, through many struggles to

come, it will be possible and necessary to build a working-class social movement that can wrest political power from the capitalist exploiters.”

On Jan. 23 Hawkins participated in a Martin Luther King Day panel discussion at Chicago State University hosted by the Chicago Council on Black Studies, CSU African American Studies Program, and the student African American Studies Association. The focus of the discussion was the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign entitled “Whose Legacy Is This? Obama, Poverty, and the Fiscal Cliff.”

More than 70 people attended the event. Speakers included Minister Michael Muhammad of Torchlight Ministries; David Lowery, founder and CEO of the Living and Driving While Black Foundation; and Jonathan Jackson, professor at CSU and national spokesman for the Rainbow/Push Coalition. All voiced criticism of the Barack Obama administration’s failure to confront the problems facing African-Americans.

“The root cause of the fiscal cliff is America’s funding for war all over the world but she will not fund a war on poverty,” Muhammad said.

“We’ve let ourselves become pup-



Militant/Betsy Farley

John Hawkins, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Chicago’s 2nd District, talks with Finesse Payne Jan. 26, as he and campaign supporters sell *Militant* door to door on city’s South Side.

pets of the Democratic Party. Obama doesn’t care about us, he cares about what he can get out of the corporations,” said Lowery.

“I’m proud that President Obama is in office even if I don’t agree with all his positions,” Jackson said.

“Not just Obama, but the capitalist system is responsible for unemployment, poverty, and the violence workers face at the hands of the cops,” said Hawkins. “Our power is in the streets—on the picket lines and mass demonstrations. We have to organize

it, rely on it and mobilize it.

“Only the working class organized in struggle can push this back. We have to fight to unify our class, the employed and unemployed, Black, immigrant, Caucasian, women and men.

“Examples right here include the fight in North Chicago to fire and convict the cops guilty of using Tasers on Darrin Hanna, who died in 2011, and the ongoing fight to win the release of the more than 100 victims of police torture who are still in prison,” said Hawkins.

N. Chicago coroner: Hanna died from cop beating

BY JOHN HAWKINS

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill.—Friends and family of Darrin Hanna won a victory Jan. 22 when Lake County Coroner Thomas Rudd ruled Hanna’s death a homicide. In the weeks since the new determination, they have stepped up efforts to put the cops who beat Hanna behind bars.

Hanna, an African-American, was 45 when he died Nov. 13, 2011, a week after seven North Chicago cops beat him and shocked him repeatedly with a Taser for 20 minutes during his arrest.

“Do you want to know why I stand here before you every week? It’s to win justice for my son, yes. But more than that, it’s to keep this from happening to your son,” Hanna’s mother, Gloria Carr, said at a Jan. 28 City Council meeting.

The announcement by the Lake County Coroner changing the manner of death from “undetermined” to “homicide” is a breakthrough for us, Carr told the *Militant* before going into the meeting. “That’s what we have said all along. Now we have two doctors who say the same thing. We had an

independent autopsy done by another doctor who drew the same conclusion close to a year ago.”

“A lot of families who have a relative killed by the cops pursue it for a while, then get depressed and drop it out of frustration,” Ralph Peterson, Hanna’s cousin, said in a Jan. 24 interview on the Internet radio show “Let the Truth be Told,” hosted by David Lowery. “We didn’t get depressed and drop this out of frustration. We mobilized and got Yancey out of there. We didn’t accept the idea that there’s nothing you can do.”

Artis Yancey is the previous Lake County Coroner who gave the “undetermined” opinion. He is a retired police chief.

“What’s different about what we’re

doing is that we came together,” Peterson told the *Militant* after the council meeting concluded. “We’ve managed to stay together and we’re pulling in the same direction.

“What we’re doing here is not going along with the same old pattern,” he continued. “The police kill, kill again, and kill some more. The city pays out a large sum of money. Then the cops kill again.

“As long as you let them do what they have been doing they’re going to keep on doing what they have been doing.

“Money isn’t the issue here,” Peterson said. “We need to stop this from happening again. And the way to do that is to give the cops who did this to Darrin some jail time.”

Join Omaha petitioning effort

Continued from front page

end. The requirements are 1,000 signatures of registered voters for mayor and 100 for city council. So far 925 have signed up for DeLuca and 154 for Perasso. Supporters of the socialist campaign are organizing to go substantially over the requirement, as the election commission has said each signature will be checked for validity.

The deadline to file for the primary is March 1. The top two vote getters in the April 2 election for each office will face off in the general election May 14.

As the numbers of working people that sign the petitions increase, so do sales of the socialist newsweekly. Sixty copies of the *Militant*, eight 12-week subscriptions and one renewal subscription were sold over the weekend. Also purchased were two books on special: *Cuba and Angola:*

Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own and *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution*.

“I like talking to workers at their doorsteps with the *Militant*,” said Jorge Rios, 28. “We not only get to hear what these workers are thinking, but it’s also a good way for supporters of the paper to get out a revolutionary perspective and find we have a lot in common.”

A total of \$15 was donated to the campaign from a number of workers who signed petitions. More than \$60 was collected at a campaign social event Saturday afternoon.

“Volunteers are always welcome, always needed,” said Perasso. To volunteer or for more information, contact the Socialist Workers Party campaign in Omaha at (402) 779-7697; email: swpomaha@fastmail.net.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

From the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement: Defending Constitutional Rights and Political Space for Working People. Speaker: Willie Cotton, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 15. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Fight Against Racism and the Legacy of Malcolm X. Speaker: Ellen Brickley, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.

CANADA

Montreal

Toward a Fighting Alliance of Workers and Peasants in Mali. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.



pathfinderpress.com

Miners fight Patriot Coal for health care, pensions

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

ST. LOUIS—About 800 members of the United Mine Workers of America and supporters rallied in front of the federal courthouse here Jan. 29, the first day of Patriot Coal's bankruptcy hearing.

Last summer Patriot's owners filed for bankruptcy, through which they are seeking to cut thousands of active and retired mine workers from health benefits and pension plans and to tear up union contracts. In 2007, Peabody Energy Corp. spun off most of its unionized mines to form Patriot Coal Corp. Those affected include more than 20,000 retirees and family members, mostly in West Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio.

Hundreds of miners came to St. Louis on buses from West Virginia and Kentucky. "Six buses came from Kentucky," Vickie Girtten, from Morganfield, Ky., told the *Militant*. "We are here trying to save our health care. We've been here since Sunday passing out flyers."

"Their fight is my fight," Floyd Conley, a miner from southern West Virginia, told the *Militant*. "If Peabody gets away with this there will be a chain reaction to all the unions. It is going to take all of the unions to march and get together."

The moves by Patriot come amid declining coal production in the region. Brett Dillon, director of the UMWA Career Center, told the Beckley, W.Va., *Register-Herald* that he estimates 3,000 workers at mines across southern West Virginia have been laid off over the past year.

Conley, 35, was laid off from the Gateway Eagle Mine owned by Patriot in November. "Patriot idled all the union mines and the nonunion mines owned by Patriot did not lay off," he said.

Jerry Meade, who worked at the Patriot Black Oak Mine in West Virginia for 37 years, said he and hundreds of other miners lost their jobs a week before Thanksgiving. "There are no other jobs," Meade told the *Militant*. "If I retire I have no medical and my wife needs it. She had two knees replaced."

Meade said he and his coworkers accepted lower pay than non-union workers doing the same job because they had health insurance. Meade made \$26 an hour, while many nonunion workers earn around \$30, he said. "But at least I knew there would be health care at the end of the line."

Following the rally they marched to the headquarters of Peabody Energy where 10 UMWA members, including UMWA President Cecil Roberts, were arrested for obstructing traffic.

Laura Anderson contributed to this article.



Militant/Laura Anderson
Members and supporters of United Mine Workers protest outside Peabody Energy's St. Louis headquarters Jan. 29 against company plans to use bankruptcy to junk health care, pensions.

3 years high joblessness, U.S. gov't won't act on jobs

Continued from front page

regulations are laying the basis for another round of high-risk housing loans to saddle more working people with debt.

With nearly 23 million workers out of full-time jobs, employment continues to stagnate. According to government figures, 7.9 percent of the workforce was jobless last month, an increase of 0.1 percent from December. And another 6.5 percent were either forced to accept part-time hours or excluded from the workforce as too "discouraged" to be counted.

Measuring the actual levels of joblessness is more accurately revealed in the employment to population ratio—a straight percentage of the total population that is employed—which unlike the official employment rate doesn't lift "discouraged" workers out of the official workforce. In January the ratio measured 58.6 percent, virtually unchanged from 58.5 percent one year ago. In fact, these figures have hovered around this point over the past three years, after a sharp decline of 5 percentage points between 2007 and the beginning of 2010.

Nearly 40 percent of all jobless workers have been unemployed for six months or longer. Millions no longer receive unemployment compensation payments and many more will see them cut off over the coming months.

President Barack Obama disbanded his administration's jobs council Jan. 31, two years after setting it up. Chaired by General Electric CEO Jeff Immelt, the Council on Jobs and Competitiveness met only four times since its inception—the last time in January 2012.

Instead of hiring additional workers, the bosses' drive is to boost productivity of those with jobs through speedup, expanded hours and attacks on working conditions. But this drive appears to be hitting some temporary limits. In the U.S., eurozone and Japan labor productivity growth is "virtually stalling," reported the Conference Board business research group. U.S. labor productivity growth in 2012 dropped to 0.2 percent for the year, down from 0.8 percent in 2011, according to board.

At the same time the U.S. gross domestic product—which measures total goods and services produced—shrank 0.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012, its first decline in three years. "For the whole year, economic activity expanded only 2.2% in 2012," reported the *Wall Street Journal*, "a fairly meager pace that may be repeated in 2013." Exports in the fourth quarter declined 5.7 percent.

The Federal Reserve's current "quantitative easing" measure—the third such endeavor since November 2008—purchases \$40 billion a month of mortgage-backed securities from U.S. banks

and \$45 billion of U.S. government bonds. The scheme, which amounts to printing money, has the stated goal of lowering mortgage costs and spurring lending, new construction and jobs.

While it has done nothing to "stimulate" production or drive down unemployment levels, it has stimulated stock prices and inflationary pressures, which in the long term could have ruinous consequences for working people. Among its real aims is to shore up banks "too big to fail" and lower the value of the dollar relative to other currencies, making U.S. exports more competitive in the world market.

In continuing this program, the Federal Reserve acknowledged its negligible impact. It said the "growth in economic activity paused because of weather-related and other transitory factors," reported the *Financial Times*.

Housing construction has risen along with a modest increase in construction employment, a possible product of quantitative easing policies. Subprime mortgages with rates that adjust interest rates higher, are also increasing—up 7 percent last month to their highest level since May 2011. "The Obama administration wants banks to step up approval of such low-income mortgages" and is using its powers under the Community Reinvestment Act to lay the basis to spur this along, reported *Investor's Business Daily* Jan 24.

Recommended reading

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics
Working-Class Politics and the Unions

By Jack Barnes



Building the kind of party working people need to prepare for coming class battles through which they will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all society.

A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective action to overturn the exploitative system of capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist foundations. **\$24**

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 19, 1988

JAY, Maine—A 112,000-gallon leak of deadly chlorine dioxide gas from International Paper Co.'s Androscoggin mill here forced the evacuation of this small town of 4,000 and parts of neighboring Livermore Falls in the late morning of February 5.

The Jay town government was informed of the danger by members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14, who have been on strike against International Paper since last June, along with members of Firemen and Oilers Local 246.

The paperworkers immediately offered the efforts of 50 strikers to inform local residents of the leak, aid in their evacuation, and direct traffic.

The company's response to the potential disaster was to downplay the hazard.



February 18, 1963

NEW YORK—In a superb display of solidarity, printers from coast to coast voted four to one to increase their dues an extra 3 percent of their wages so that their union can continue to pay adequate benefits to their striking and locked-out brothers in New York.

The decision to hold the nationwide referendum of International Typographical Union members on Feb. 6 was made last December at the outset of the now 10-week-old strike. As the date grew nearer, the vote's importance was apparent to all—to the workers and to the newspaper publishers.

The publishers must now fight not just New York's 3,000 newspaper printers, but the 110,000-strong ITU membership.



February 19, 1938

Ethiopia. Spain. China. Already three million casualties, with the curtain not yet raised on the main act. Already three million dead, wounded, dying. Thousands upon thousands of the most heroic and militant of the workers, peasants, students, torn to pieces by the machine-gun spray, the twisted fragments of time-fuse bombs.

All this is but the faint, mild foreshadowing, the first cracks in a world shell which is near the breaking point. The precarious balance, upheld by the Versailles Treaty imposed by the winning imperialist gangsters in 1919, holds no longer.

Roosevelt, the cunning leader of American imperialism, is moving rapidly toward first place among the war makers of the world.

Tokyo steps up use of military, strengthens US, other alliances

Imperialists 'pivot' to counter China, isolate N. Korea

BY SETH GALINSKY

Alongside Washington's "pivot to Asia," Tokyo is carrying out its own shifts, including increasing use of military forces outside its borders and strengthening alliances with governments in the region aimed at countering the rising power of China, both a key trading partner and rival.

"I envisage a strategy whereby Australia, India, Japan, and the US state of Hawaii form a diamond to safeguard the maritime commons stretching from the Indian Ocean region to the western Pacific," wrote Shinzo Abe in a November article, shortly before he was elected prime minister of Japan.

U.S. defense officials are working with Tokyo to revise guidelines on how their two armies work together as the Japanese government bit by bit clears political obstacles and constitutional restrictions on use of its military, dating back to conditions imposed by Washington following Japan's defeat in World War II.

Japan currently has the sixth-largest annual military budget in the world, set to increase by 2.2 percent starting in April.

Soon after taking office Abe sent Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on a trip to try to cement relations with other U.S.-allied regimes in the region, including in Australia, Brunei, the Philippines and Singapore.

"Japan's path since the end of World War II has been to firmly protect democracy and basic human rights and

stress the rule of law," Abe claimed, according to Reuters Jan. 15, saying they were "strengthening ties with countries that share such values."

But one key U.S. ally, the South Korean government, has not been so amenable to the increased Japanese muscle flexing, despite visits from U.S. State Department, Pentagon and White House officials.

In June a planned Japan-South Korea intelligence-sharing pact was scuttled after word leaked out in South Korea, where hatred of Japanese imperialism's brutal occupation of the country prior to Japan's defeat in World War II still runs deep.

Washington has been encouraging Tokyo to play more of a role both in containing China, the biggest competitor to Washington's military and economic might, and isolating North Korea. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton emphasized their "joint commitment" to U.N. sanctions against North Korea at a Jan. 18 press conference in Washington, D.C., with Kishida.

A dispute over islands in the East China Sea administered by Tokyo,



Chinese fishing boat is surrounded by Japan Coast Guard patrol boats by disputed islands in the East China Sea known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, August 2012. Boat in center had brought Chinese protesters to the island to oppose Tokyo's claim.

known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, is one source of rising tensions between Beijing and Tokyo.

On Jan. 10, after a Chinese transport plane flew near the islands on what Beijing's Defense Ministry described as a "routine patrol," Tokyo sent two F-15 fighter jets to tail it. The Chinese military responded with two J-10 fighter planes to "monitor" the Japanese aircraft. According to The Diplomat, an online magazine based in Tokyo, more than 10 Chinese military aircraft were involved in the incident, which ended when the Chinese planes left.

"Although the United States does

not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the islands, we acknowledge they are under the administration of Japan and we oppose any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine Japanese administration," Clinton said at the Jan. 18 press conference.

Meanwhile, the Japanese and South Korean governments are disputing control of the Dokdo Islands, which are administered by Seoul.

Adding fuel to the fire, Prime Minister Abe has indicated he wants to "revise" a 1993 apology for forcing thousands of Korean women to be sex slaves for Japanese troops during World War II.

Australia, UK summit deepens military ties

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY—The annual ministerial meeting between the governments of Australia and the United Kingdom took place in Perth, Western Australia, Jan. 18. The summit was aimed at deepening

military ties between the two powers, while backing the strategic shift of U.S. military forces toward the Asia-Pacific region to counter the rising economic and military power of Beijing.

British Foreign Secretary William

Hague and Defence Minister Philip Hammond and their Australian counterparts, Foreign Minister Robert Carr and Defence Minister Stephen Smith, headed the delegations. A similar bilateral summit between the U.S. and Australian governments took place two months ago.

In the lead up to the summit, Hammond laid out the concerns that have led the British and Australian governments to align with Washington's "strategic pivot" toward Asia, saying Washington was "the only power on Earth that is capable of rising to the challenge of growing Chinese ambition."

During World War II, the rulers of Australia switched their main alliance from London to Washington. For the first time since the end of the war, the U.S. military's dominance of the Pacific is being challenged by Beijing's growing military capabilities.

The two parties discussed the withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan over the next two years. Washington, London and Canberra are planning to leave a limited number of troops, particularly special commando forces, beyond 2014.

The talks ended with the signing of a new military pact that included plans to increase interoperability and share development costs for "global platform" armaments, such as a new British frigate and Australian submarine.

Before arriving in Australia, Hague was in New Zealand where he met with Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully to discuss cyberwarfare cooperation and other issues.

Two months ago, British and Australian military forces joined the New Zealand armed forces in an exercise near Auckland, New Zealand, geared toward developing an amphibious force for beach landings.

Georges Mehrabian from Athens, Greece, contributed to this article.

Workers continue fight for rights in Egypt

Continued from front page

bor and political rights. The next day the verdict in what is known as the Port Said Stadium Massacre was announced, fueling more protests especially in cities along the Suez Canal, including Port Said, Ismailia and Suez.

The trial stemmed from the death of at least 72 people, mostly "Ultras"—fans of Cairo's Al-Ahly soccer team—following a match with Port Said's Al-Masry team on Feb. 1, 2012. The Ultras played a prominent role in protests against Mubarak. The Port Said

Criminal Court found 21 Al-Masry fans guilty of murder and sentenced them to death.

Many in Port Said see the trial as a frame-up and say the deaths were primarily a result of police negligence, charging that cops dimmed the lights and closed gates when fighting broke out. Some participants say the incident was initiated by provocateurs.

On Jan. 27 Morsi announced a 30-day state of emergency in the three canal cities along with a 9 p.m. curfew. With what *Time* magazine described as "rebellious gusto," residents scheduled the next protests to start at 8:45 p.m. and held late-night soccer games in front of local government headquarters. Army soldiers sent in to maintain order didn't even try to enforce the curfew.

By Jan. 29 nearly 50 people were killed in clashes with the police, according to the London *Financial Times*, mostly in Port Said.

Army chief Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi warned that "continuing conflict between political forces and their differences concerning the management of the country could lead to a collapse of the state." The army is "the solid cohesive bloc and the strong pillar" of the state, he added.

Leaders of the National Salvation Front, dominated by opposition bourgeois parties, have called for a dialogue to end the clashes, as has Morsi. Recognizing that decisive power resides



www.pathfinderpress.com

Montreal Labour Council hosts Cuban 5 art exhibit

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL—More than 100 people attended an exhibit of cartoons by Gerardo Hernández here at the headquarters of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN). Hernández is one of five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the United States for more than 14 years on frame-up charges.

The Jan. 24 event, entitled “Humour From My Pen,” was organized by International Solidarity Committee of the Montreal Labour Council of the CSN and the Fabio Di Celmo Committee for the Five.

It featured several dozen cartoons created by Hernández since his incarceration, a buffet, music by saxophonist Janet Lumb, a video by filmmaker Saul Landau with actor Danny Glover, and a panel of speakers.

Dominique Daigneault, Labour Council general secretary, welcomed the crowd, which included garment, postal, food manufacturing, and other workers; college and university students; campus radio station journalists; musicians; and Cuba solidarity activists.

Daigneault urged others to use the “traveling exhibit” to get out the truth

about the five. Students and teachers at Montreal’s Marianopolis College are planning such an event in February.

Arnold August, representative of the Fabio Di Celmo Committee, read a letter from Hernández thanking the event organizers.

“All the promotion, explanations of my work and even this letter have been translated into French for the very first time,” Hernández said. “I spend a great deal of my time responding to hundreds of solidarity letters and I do [these cartoons] lacking the material and appropriate conditions of a real artist.

“We [the five] know that the key to our inevitable freedom lives in that solidarity that continues to grow worldwide.”

August urged those attending the event to build and join a demonstration called for June 1 in front of the White House in Washington, D.C., to demand freedom for the five.

Washington “did to the five what they could not do to the Cuban people,” said keynote speaker Alain González, Cuba’s consul general in Montreal.

“The American authorities are those preventing their liberation. It’s a political question. Victory lies in the resistance.”

1 of Cuban 5 wins transfer out of Miami prison

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Ramón Labañino, one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and jailed by the U.S. government for more than 14 years, recently won his demand to transfer from a Miami prison where he was sent in mid-January.

The Bureau of Prisons consented to the transfer following protests by Labañino’s lawyers and supporters, who argued the move to Miami put his personal safety in jeopardy.

In a Feb. 1 message from the medium security federal prison in Jesup, Ga., posted on the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five website, Labañino explains what happened.

“Since June 2012, the authorities of this institution informed me that I could be assigned to an institution of low security, due to the low points and clean record that we have maintained in all these 14 years of imprisonment,” he wrote.

Labañino was later assigned to the low-security federal prison in Miami “despite the fact that Ramón told the Bureau of Prisons that this was not a good idea,” his lawyer William Norris wrote in an accompanying article. In Miami, wrote Norris, “both some inmates and some staff hold deeply rooted

animus to the regime in Cuba that makes Ramón’s safety, let alone fair treatment, a problem.”

Labañino eventually left the prison in Jesup Jan. 11 and arrived at the Miami facility Jan. 14.

“When I was interviewed by the official who receives the new ‘tenants,’” Labañino said, “she told me in a few words that I should not be in the population of that institution for obvious reasons of personal security, and therefore she decided to send me to the ‘hole’ where I should wait for the decision that the management of the place would make later.

“Thanks to your phone calls, the efficient actions or our [Cuba’s] revolutionary government and our attorneys, they finally decided to remove me quickly not only from Miami but from all Florida.”

After being held eight days in solitary confinement, Labañino was sent back to Jesup, where he is now waiting for a decision to be made on where to go next.

In agreeing to the transfer, the government has drawn attention to one facet of its frame-up: the insistence of U.S. prosecutors and the presiding judge to hold the 2001 trial of the five in Miami, despite seven defense motions to move it to any other location in the country.

“What happened is significant,” Norris said in a phone interview. “If the Bureau of Prisons can’t guarantee his safety in a Miami jail today, what does that say about the trial?”

The 2001 trial in Miami took place against a backdrop of a constant sensational and negative media against the five, as well as harassment and intimidation of the jury by the press and counter-revolutionary Cuban American groups.

In August 2005, a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta unanimously overturned the convictions and ordered a new trial outside Miami. They ruled that “an impartial jury in this case” was “an unreason-



Militant photos by Grant Hargrave

Above, Alain González, Cuba’s consul general in Montreal, speaks Jan. 24 at exhibit of cartoons by Cuban revolutionary Gerardo Hernández, framed up and jailed in U.S. since 1998 with double life plus 15 years sentence. Event was held at Confederation of National Trade Unions headquarters. Inset, participants view cartoons prior to program.



Answering a question on this year’s 25th anniversary of the victory by Cuban and Angolan forces against South Africa’s apartheid army in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, González said that “more than 375,000 Cubans had combat experience in Africa.”

Three of the five Cuban prisoners

were among the Cuban volunteers in Angola, including Hernández.

“Cuban forces dealt the death blow to apartheid. I’m not the one saying this. Look at Nelson Mandela’s speeches at the time,” he said.

In March 1988, invading forces of the white supremacist regime of South Africa were dealt a decisive defeat in the small town of Cuito Cuanavale, southern Angola, which opened the door to the independence of Namibia from South African domination and the overthrow of apartheid a few years later.

“Today, we go abroad to heal people,” González added. “There are 1,000 Cuban doctors in Haiti. Cuban doctors were there before the [January 2010] earthquake.

The Cuban consul described how the five have won respect from fellow prisoners, initiating among other things literacy efforts among detainees.

“We’re used to aid from the international community with a hidden agenda,” Orland Angat, a food worker of Congolese origin, told the *Militant*.

“But the example of Cuba sending aid to Haiti without expecting anything in return—1,000 doctors—that’s huge!”

At work the next day, he added, “The meeting changed something in me.”

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 shoot-down of two aircraft flown by the 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 2011 he has been serving a three-year “supervised release.” On the pretext of his dual citizenship, his request to return to Cuba has been denied. His wife, Olga Salanueva, is barred from entering the United States, as is Adriana Pérez, the wife of Hernández.

See ad on page 3 for *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*.



Ramón Labañino in U.S. jail in 2008.

Sankara: ‘Malian soldiers no longer prisoners, but brothers’

Below is an excerpt from *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*, published by Pathfinder Press. Sankara was the central leader of the revolution in that West African country.

Under his leadership, Burkina Faso’s revolutionary government mobilized peasants, workers, craftsmen, women and youth to begin confronting the economic and social underdevelopment inherited from colonial and then imperialist domination, while extending the hand of solidarity to others engaged in that fight around the world.

The Burkinabè Revolution earned the deep hatred of imperialist powers and capitalist rulers—at home and throughout the region. The revolutionary government was overthrown in an October 1987 coup, in which Sankara was killed.

The Burkinabè Revolution remains to this day a powerful example of what working people from Africa are capable of doing, including producing world proletarian leadership of the highest caliber.

This example is especially relevant today with the unfolding war in neighboring Mali—involving Tuareg nationalists, Islamist forces allied with al-Qaeda, anti-Arab and anti-Tuareg militias fighting alongside government troops, and thousands of soldiers from France and neighboring African countries.

The speech below was given Jan. 3, 1986, to a Burkina-Mali solidarity rally in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. A week earlier, the Malian government, heavily armed and tacitly backed



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Thomas Sankara, leader of 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, speaking at gathering of several thousand women in Ouagadougou on International Women’s Day, March 8, 1987.

by Paris, had used a border dispute as a pretext to invade Burkina Faso. The five-day conflict ended with the signing of a cease-fire between the two countries.

Copyright © 1988 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



BY THOMAS SANKARA

On December 25, 1985, with the year drawing to a close, our populations were bombed. They were bombed by planes, they were wounded and killed by tanks and troops coming from the other side. We then counterattacked. Confronting material superiority, confronting an abundance of weapons, we countered with collective political and revolutionary determination. ... We protected our people. We protected them because we were victims of aggression, because we owe them liberty and tranquility day and night. We protected them, thus fulfilling a revolutionary duty.

War is nothing other than an extension of politics. Their politics were extended and transformed into war. Our politics were extended and transformed into a generalized popular defense. Two political courses confronted each other, and one political course triumphed.

Dear comrades, on this day, January 3, 1986, I would like us to think of all those who fell on the field of honor—Maliens and Burkinabè—of all those

who were wounded, of all the tearful families, of these two peoples, and of other peoples from Africa and elsewhere who have been touched by these painful confrontations. I would like each of us to make an effort to surmount feelings of hate, rejection, and hostility toward the Malian people. I would like each of us to achieve the most important victory: to kill inside ourselves the seeds of hostility and enmity toward anyone.

We have an important victory to win: planting the seeds of genuine friendship in our hearts, capable of withstanding even the murderous assault of cannons, planes, and tanks. This kind of friendship is only built on the revolutionary basis of sincere love for other peoples.

I know you are capable of this, capable of loving the Malian people and demonstrating it. We will demonstrate it. In their speech, the brothers from Mali said they favor developing relations. First of all, we answer: yes! But in addition, we are going to follow these words with deeds. For this reason, comrades, I want to tell you that as far as we’re concerned, there has never been anything but friendship and love between the Malian and Burkinabè peoples.

Comrades! Are you or are you not for friendship between our two peoples? [*Shouts of “Yes!”*] The popular masses, who hold power in Burkina Faso, have spoken. On their behalf I say directly to the entire world that there are no longer

any Malian prisoners in Burkina Faso. The Malian military personnel who are here are no longer prisoners. They are our brothers. They can return to [Mali’s capital] Bamako when and as they wish, in total freedom.

We did not fight in order to take prisoners, but to repel the enemy. We have repelled him. Every Malian in Burkina Faso is a brother. The Malians who are here are our brothers. Starting today, arrangements will be made for them to live in complete freedom, for them to taste the joy of freedom in Burkina Faso, especially in Ouagadougou. Their families in Mali should know that they can come and get them, just as they can wait for them at Bamako airport, whatever they wish.

Comrades, let us avoid being diverted, dragged into fights that are not the people’s fights. Let us avoid being dragged into concerns that are not the people’s concerns, into the mad race toward confrontation and stockpiling of weapons. We know that in certain minds the temptation will be great, come what may, to seek military arsenals, and in so doing justify bellicose actions and thus find easy and convenient pretexts for holding the masses for ransom. This will not happen in Burkina Faso.

The Western media, the imperialist press, has often said that Burkina Faso is a country with a massive stockpile of weapons. You have often read in the papers that our country has received tons and tons of military equipment. Fortunately, this same press ... has recognized that Burkina Faso was militarily underequipped. ...

We now know which country has stockpiled weapons, and which country has military scrap at its disposal. We now know which country imposes sacrifices on its people in the interests of social, political, and economic development rather than for excessive militarization.

The events of these five days have allowed Burkina Faso to wash away the shame, to reestablish the truth. They have allowed the entire world to see us as we really are. Only those who detest the revolution—and there are many—will continue trying to spread confusion through their maneuvers. Battles await us, and we must win them.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4025 S. Western Ave. Zip: 90062. Tel: (323) 295-2600. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net
San Francisco: 5482 Mission St. Zip: 94112-1015. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 7100 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 306A. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 806 W. Washington Blvd. Suite 202. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 455-0111. E-mail: Chicagoswp@att.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 707-1779. E-mail: swpdesmoines@fastmail.fm

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 416 E. Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Zip: 55414. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

NEBRASKA, Lincoln: Tel: (402) 217-4906. E-mail: swplincn@windstream.net
Omaha: P.O. Box 7908. Zip: 68107. Tel.: (402) 779-7697. E-mail: swpomaha@fastmail.net

NEW YORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 3701 Pulaski Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 225-1270. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-50L. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston@att.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143 Kennedy St. NW, Suite 15. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@qwestoffice.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: clc_can@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 4/125 Grafton Rd., Grafton. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140. Tel: (09) 369-1223. E-mail: clauack@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: (020) 7613-2466. E-mail: cllondon@fastmail.fm
Manchester: Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House, 26–28 Hilton St. Postal code: M1 2EH. Tel: (016) 1478-2496. E-mail: clmanchr@gmail.com

February BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

Our History Is Still Being Written

The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution
by Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, Moisés Sío Wong, Mary-Alice Waters
\$20. **Special price: \$15**



Black Music, White Business

by Frank Kofsky
\$17. **Special price: \$12.75**



February 1965: The Final Speeches

by Malcolm X
Speeches from last three weeks of the life of this outstanding leader of the oppressed Black nationality in the U.S.
\$19. **Special price: \$14.25**

Revolutionary Continuity: The Early Years, 1848-1917

by Farrell Dobbs
How successive generations of fighters joined the struggles that shaped the U.S. labor movement, seeking to build a class-conscious revolutionary leadership. \$20. **Special price: \$15**

My Life

by Leon Trotsky
\$35. **Special price: \$26.25**

Rebelión Teamster (Teamster Rebellion)

by Farrell Dobbs
\$19. **Special price: \$14.25**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL FEBRUARY 28

Fight for gov’t-funded jobs program!

Amid hand wringing over years of high unemployment, no capitalist politician has proposed—let alone done—anything to put more people to work. President Barack Obama’s highly-touted Jobs Commission he set up two years ago met four times and did nothing. Last week the president unceremoniously disbanded it.

These facts point to only one conclusion: The propertied rulers and the elected politicians who represent them don’t want to do anything about the scourge of unemployment, despite what they say.

Under current conditions of declining production and trade, the bosses have no economic interest in boosting employment. As they compete with each other and seek to shore up their declining profit rates, their concern is to drive against the wages, working conditions and overall living standards of working people as much as possible without engendering too much resistance along the way. Persistently high joblessness is helpful in this regard.

The larger the ranks of jobless, the longer periods of their unemployment, the more discouraged and willing to accept pay cuts to be working again, the better. The less confident and combative workers are, the better.

For the same reasons, the *Militant* and the Socialist Workers Party candidates have been raising the need for working people to fight for a massive government-funded public works program to put millions to work today, building and repairing infrastructure, hospitals, schools and other things workers need. Under the cumulative impact of the current situation, this demand is becoming more and more necessary, not only to alleviate the immediate economic grind, but to strengthen the unity, confidence and fighting capacity of the working class in order to push back the capitalists’ assaults.

It is in this context that the *Militant* is launching a five-week subscription effort, taking the perspective for the fight for jobs and other political questions of interest to workers door to door across the country—and internationally. We have found more and more working people want to discuss how to confront the social crises bred by the normal workings of capitalism. And more are open to a perspective of decades of class-struggle ahead through which working people will transform themselves, posing the need and possibility of building a revolutionary movement that can fight for political power. We invite you to join in.

Washington, UN tighten N. Korea sanctions

Continued from front page

Republic of Korea said the next day, denouncing the “double standards” of Security Council members. “The DPRK will continue to exercise its independent and legitimate right to launch satellites for peaceful purposes while abiding by the universally recognized international law on the use of space for peaceful purposes.”

The Security Council called for stepped-up enforcement of six previous resolutions aimed at blocking North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile delivery systems. Those measures include bans on North Korean arms imports and exports and calls for inspecting and destroying “all banned cargo... on the high seas, at seaports, and airports.”

In the new resolution “a ‘catch-all’ system was introduced,” reports South Korean newspaper *Hankyoreh*, “according to which a member country that judges that a given item might be used for military purposes can prohibit it from being exported, even if it is not on the list of items placed under embargo by previous resolutions.”

The resolution imposes a travel ban and asset freeze on four North Korean bank and space technology officials and freezes the assets of six banks and government bodies.

The Chinese government, North Korea’s largest trading partner, voted in favor of sanctions, the third time it has done so since 2006.

Highlighting the double standard toward the North, the South Korean government Jan. 30 launched a satellite into space, after several previous failed attempts, without a peep of protest from the U.N. or Washington.

In response to the stepped-up sanctions, North Korea’s National Defense Commission issued a statement Jan. 24 announcing its intention to push ahead with nuclear weapons development: “We will not hide the fact that a variety of satellites and long-range rockets will be launched and a nuclear test of a higher level will be carried out during the next phase of the anti-U.S. struggle,” it said.

The U.S. government has a long history of aggression against Korea, from the U.S. occupation and forced division of the country into North and South—with the agreement of Moscow—following World War II to the 1950-53 Korean War, waged by Washington under the U.N. flag, and the backing of successive capitalist-landlord military dictatorships in the South.

In the course of the Korean War, the U.S. military leveled almost every building in the North, forcing factories to operate underground. U.S. airstrikes also destroyed major dams, wiping out large swatches of agricultural land.

In 1953, after North Korea with the aid of Chinese

troops fought the U.S-led forces to a stalemate and dealt U.S. imperialism its first military defeat, Washington agreed to a cease-fire. To this day the U.S. government has refused to sign a formal peace treaty, despite numerous requests from Pyongyang, and remains officially at war with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Economic sanctions banning trade with North Korea that were put in place in 1950, three days after the start of the war, have never been lifted.

There are still some 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea and some 47,000 across the Korea Strait in Japan. U.S. stealth bombers at Japanese and Guam airbases can reach North Korea within an hour.

According to the Arms Control Association, U.S. forces had 100 tactical nuclear weapons based in South Korea until at least September 1991, when President George H. Bush announced that he was withdrawing tactical nukes deployed abroad. And Washington helped Seoul sweep under the rug the fact that as recently as 2000 it produced nuclear weapons-grade plutonium and uranium in experiments hidden from the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency.

Negotiations with Washington

Over the last two decades Washington has participated in numerous on-again, off-again negotiations with Pyongyang, insisting that North Korea end its programs to develop nuclear weapons, while defending U.S. deployment of nuclear weapons worldwide.

In 1994, Washington and Pyongyang adopted an “Agreed Framework,” which called for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapon programs in the North. As part of the agreement two light water reactors for electrical generation were to be built in the North along with annual shipments of fuel oil until the plant goes on line. But that agreement broke down as Washington balked at carrying out its end of the bargain. It was announced in 2006 that the plants won’t be built.

In February 2012 an agreement was announced that Pyongyang would suspend operations at its Yongbyon uranium plant and that Washington would provide 240,000 metric tons of food aid. The following month Washington suspended the food delivery after North Korea announced it would launch a satellite.

Pyongyang continues to demonstrate its interest in seeking resolution to tensions with Washington on terms that respect Korean sovereignty.

In the midst of stepped-up sanctions, Pyongyang welcomed former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt on a four-day unofficial trip to North Korea Jan. 7. Three weeks later Google added information to Google maps on North Korea for the first time, including streets, government buildings and landmarks.

NY school bus strike

Continued from front page

“It doesn’t matter what state you live in,” Fred Floreal, one of the Boston drivers, told the *Militant*. “Their cause is our cause.”

“Unions all over the world are one union,” said Michael Bonnet, a Boston driver who is originally from Haiti. “There’s a lot of struggles in Haiti. We know how to do this.”

The Boston contingent was welcomed by the strikers. “It means everything,” said Maribel Gonzalez, a bus attendant for 17 years. “It means we are not alone.”

The main issue in the strike is the plan of the city government and bus companies to eliminate Employee Protection Provisions, in place for 34 years, that they now claim are illegal.

The provisions require that companies that win contracts from the city government must first hire workers laid off from other companies in seniority order, with their pay and benefits intact. Strikers point out that without the master pick list they would essentially be temporary workers, put out on the street every time their route changes hands.

“In 2003 Varsity Transit closed down. I had worked there for 15 years,” said Luis Nieves. “They reopened under the name Varsity Bus Company. Since we had the EPP protections, I followed the work. Without that, the companies can just close down, open with another name, and hire workers for less money.”

Workers have already taken cuts over the years, Nieves added. “Now it takes six years to get to top pay, instead of the three years needed when I started. We have no sick days, and less vacation.”

The New York School Bus Contractors’ Coalition had filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board asking for an injunction. The bus company bosses argued the dispute is between the union and the city government, making the strike an illegal “secondary boycott.” Bloomberg, however, insists it is between the bus companies and the union.

On Feb. 1, the NLRB ruled the strike legal and stated that both the companies and the Board of Education are “primary employers.”

Some 2,800 of 7,700 bus routes are now running, 110 more than the week before, Board of Education spokeswoman Marge Feinberg told the *Wall Street Journal* Feb. 3. Among those crossing the picket lines are many members of Teamsters Local 854, which represents 1,000 school bus workers.

Workers at nonunion companies as well as members of United Craft and Industrial Workers Union Local 91, which organizes workers at Logan Bus Co., are also crossing the picket lines. United Service Workers Union Local 355 is providing replacement workers for Staten Island Bus Company. Other struck companies are hiring scabs. Feinberg told the *Journal* that 49 new drivers and more than 200 attendants have been certified by the city.

Michael, an ATU member who asked his last name not be used, said many of the workers at Consolidated Bus Transit, where he works, are in the Teamsters and many of its buses are running. “It doesn’t make sense,” he said while picketing on Hermany Avenue in the Bronx Feb. 4. “We do the same job and what happens to us is going to happen to them.”

Michael said Consolidated sent letters to ATU members offering to hire them if they switched to the Teamsters. “But at much less money and only part time,” he said. “You’d lose everything—salary, benefits, seniority. So far no one has taken them up on it. You might as well just go look for another job.”

While this reporter was on the Hermany Avenue picket line, the police came and made workers extinguish a small fire they had going in an oil drum to keep warm in the subfreezing weather.

At the Zerega Avenue Bronx picket line in front of Reliant Transportation Inc., ATU 1181 President Michael Cordello and United Federation of Teachers representative José Vargas spoke after the caravan arrived. “This is not just about the school bus workers,” Vargas said. “The mayor is trying to break the unions.” “The public is with us, other unions are with us, and the truth is with us,” Cordello said. He said the ATU is expanding picket lines at the Board of Education.

A citywide march on Feb. 10 will start at 12:30 p.m. at Brooklyn’s Cadman Plaza and end at City Hall.

Seth Galinsky, Deborah Liatos and Candace Wagner contributed to this article.