

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

US gov't targeted communists, unions after Bolshevik Revolution  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 19 MAY 20, 2013

## Subscription drive starts strong, interest builds in conference of fighting workers

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Beginning with the rally of coal miners and their supporters April 29 in St. Louis, the first days of a seven-week international campaign to win thousands of subscribers to the *Militant* and sell hundreds of books on revolutionary working-class politics have netted 447 subscriptions. Fifty were sold at the miners' protest. The drive runs through June 25.

Alongside the subscription effort, readers of the paper, workers involved in labor struggles and other working people, are discussing organizing a conference of fighting workers this summer.

Such a gathering would be an opportunity for those thinking about how to respond to the capitalist crisis and the rulers' ongoing attacks on our wages, working conditions, rights and very dignity to come together, exchange experiences and discuss the next steps in building a fighting working-class movement.

With its coverage of union struggles, social protest actions and important developments in world politics — all from the point of view of the interests of the working class — the *Militant* is an integral part of drawing workers together for such a gathering.

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## Utah coal miners stand up to bosses attack on safety, union

Take protest to mine owners in Iowa, Nebraska



Militant/David Rosenfeld

Miners from Deer Creek Mine in Utah protest May 4 at Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting in Omaha, Neb., against drive to gut union safety committee and impose concessions.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL AND HELEN MEYERS

DES MOINES, Iowa — Having traveled more than 1,000 miles by bus from Utah, dozens of miners and their supporters, joined by a dozen local unionists, picketed here May 3 outside the headquarters of MidAmerican Energy, which operates the Deer Creek Mine near Huntington, Utah.

Deer Creek, which employs 235 people, is the only United Mine Workers union-organized mine in Utah. Workers there are resisting the

bosses' drive to impose concessions in their contract, which expired Jan. 2, that would weaken the union along with its role in job safety.

The 56 demonstrators, undeterred by snowfall and high winds, were well received by working people here. One woman stopped her car and donated a pair of gloves. Participants wore T-shirts that said, "Justice for Local 1769 & 2176 Miners and Retirees," and chanted, "MidAmerican promised, MidAmerican lied," echoing a slogan used at recent protests in St. Louis and Charleston, W.Va., against moves to bust unions and end retiree health and pension benefits by Patriot

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## René González, 1 of Cuban 5, wins battle to return to Cuba



Granma/Jorge Luis González

"I urge people to publicize our cause in the U.S.," said René González, above with wife Olga Salanueva at May 6 press conference in Havana. "We will continue the battle until the other four are returned."

BY LOUIS MARTIN

In a victory for the international campaign to free five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the U.S. since 1998, René González returned to Cuba. Since González was paroled in October 2011, he had been forced to

JOIN FIVE DAYS FOR THE FIVE IN D.C.!

—See editorial, p.9

remain in the U.S. to serve a three-year term of supervised release.

González traveled to Havana April 22 under a two-week court-ordered release to attend a memorial for his father Cándido González, who died April 1. On May 3 U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard ruled he could serve the remaining half of his supervised release in Cuba on condition he renounce his U.S. citizenship and never return to the United States.

"Fighting to free Fernando [González], Antonio [Guerrero], Gerardo [Hernández] and Ramón [Labañino] will be the priority of my

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## Tens of thousands march on May Day as Congress debates immigration 'reform'



Militant/Betsy Farley

"We're not criminals, we are workers," said Brian Mendoza, one of more than 3,000 participants at May 1 demonstration in Chicago, above, one of dozens around the country.

BY BETSY FARLEY AND SARA LOBMAN

Tens of thousands joined May 1 demonstrations in more than 50 cities across the United States, many carrying signs demanding an end to deportations and government programs that criminalize immigrant work-

ers, including E-Verify and Secure Communities. Participants included workers marching in union contingents and unorganized workers, immigrants and native-born.

The actions were largely organized and built by coalitions that included

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## Guantánamo hunger strike grows, highlights abusive conditions

BY SUSAN LAMONT

The hunger strike by prisoners held at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba, is growing, as their fight against abusive conditions and open-ended detention gains international attention.

The number of prisoners reported on hunger strike increased sharply following an April 13 raid by U.S. soldiers that put nearly every detainee into solitary lockdown.

The hunger strike began Feb. 6 after guards went through prisoners' Korans, supposedly in search of contraband. Soldiers also seized "comfort items" such as family pictures and mail.

By April 27 some 100 of the 166

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Why revolutionaries condemn terrorism, Boston to Colombia 7

# 3 decades after Britain’s Malvinas war Argentine sovereignty back on agenda

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Following the April 7 death of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, bourgeois figures and media here have sung praises for the Malvinas war she led as a show of British power and a triumph for “democracy.” But the record of that conflict and current reality paint a different picture.

In April 1982, London dispatched its biggest post-WWII invasion force to expel Argentine troops from its colony in the Falkland Islands, known as the Malvinas to Argentines, who rightly consider it part of their nation. The two-month war claimed 655 Argentine lives and 255 British. London followed its victory with a new military base on the islands — fighter bombers, battleships and a garrison of 1,200.

An effective bourgeois politician, Thatcher correctly assessed the weakness of the Argentine military dictatorship of Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri. But the U.K. rulers’ victory took place in the midst of Britain’s continued decline as a world power and was possible only with the help of Washington. Under the Ronald Reagan administration, the U.S. government provided air base facilities in the Ascension Isles; fuel for ships and aircraft; intelligence, including satellite communications; and weaponry.

Britain’s influence has declined further since 1982 and today the rulers more than ever cling to their “special relationship” with their American cousins. But with the economic crisis pressing London to acknowledge its real place in the world — including forcing cutbacks to Britain’s armed forces — the relation-

ship is less “special” to Washington, which no longer backs Britain’s colonial claims as it did 30 years ago.

Today British interests in Argentina have shrunk to under 2 percent of foreign investment there, and Argentina’s right to sovereignty over the Malvinas is back on the agenda of world politics.

A recent poll of islanders — 70 percent are British descendants — reflected a desire to maintain U.K. control. The Thatcher government hid behind similar sentiments with claims of defending the “right to self-determination.”

Of real interest to London was the strategic place of the Malvinas, which sits 300 miles off Argentine shores, in relation to the Antarctic and Latin America; the possibility of exploiting oil under the sea bed; and holding the line against imperial Britain being bested by semicolonial Argentina. And to ensure Argentina and the rest of the semicolonial world learned the right lessons, imperialist governments backed London’s Malvinas war with trade and diplomatic sanctions against Argentina.

Thatcher pitched the war as one of democracy vs. dictatorship and won backing from bourgeois and petty-bourgeois left political currents on that basis. Labour leader Michael Foot outpaced the prime minister in jingoistic calls to action. The “Militant tendency” in the Labour Party — now called Socialist Party — declared their “neutrality” and called for a trade union boycott of Argentina.

But the war was one of oppressor against oppressed nation. For more than a century Argentina was a de facto

## London rallies oppose hospital service cuts



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

LONDON — More than 1,000 trade unionists and others joined feeder marches from Southall and Acton to a rally at Ealing Common April 27 to protest government proposals to close accident and emergency (A and E) departments and cut hundreds of beds in Ealing and three other hospitals in Northwest London.

With cuts at four hospitals, “you would need to travel a long way to get to an A and E,” said bus driver and UNITE union member Paul Riley at that action. “That’s the difference between life and death.”

“They say it’s about saving money but it should be about saving lives,” said 24-year-old local resident Jelisha Catnott.

On April 20 thousands of people protested plans to slash services at Stafford Hospital. Save Our Hospitals coalition is planning a protest here May 18.

—JULIE CRAWFORD AND PAMELA HOLMES

British colony. Britain dominated the economy, including the decisive meat and transport industries.

U.K. control over the Malvinas — called the Falkland Islands by its colonial masters — was part of this, dating back to an 1833 invasion and occupation. London settled the islands with pro-U.K. loyalists and has defended its conquest by force ever since. British absentee landlords operated a virtual monopoly over the islands’ economy — stores, shipping and wool, as well as owning 43 percent of the land.

Following WWII, British assets in Argentina — half of all foreign holdings — were nationalized. Washington supplanted U.K. dominance, while British banks maintained financial leverage.

For six years before the conflict, the military junta that had usurped power in Argentina received imperialist backing in its murderous assault on working people. London was a major arms sup-

plier, while Washington worked closely with the regime in counterrevolutionary activity in Central America.

Britain’s Malvinas war was not only deeply resented by the Argentine people, but spurred international opposition. The revolutionary government of Cuba led calls for international protests. Hundreds of thousands took to the streets, especially in Latin America.

At the same time, the forcible seizure of the islands by the crisis-laden dictatorship of Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri failed in its goal of blunting opposition to the regime. Workers protesting in Buenos Aires chanted “*Las Malvinas son argentinas*” and “*Se va a acabar, la dictadura militar*” (The Malvinas are Argentine — the military dictatorship is going.)

The dictatorship’s demise — on the rocks of military defeat and internal opposition — took place within days following the recapturing of the Malvinas by Britain in June 1982.

## The Militant

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**Associate editor:** John Studer  
**Circulation director:** Louis Martin

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

## THE MILITANT

### Union power needed to preserve life and limb

*From garment workers in Bangladesh to coal miners and chemical workers in the U.S., the ‘Militant’ covers the fight to defend workers’ safety and the need to organize unions to prevent the sacrificing of workers on the altar of bosses’ drive for profit. Don’t miss an issue.*



AP Photo/The San Antonio Express News  
Working-class housing after April 17 explosion at West Fertilizer plant in West, Texas.

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# Subscription drive starts strong

Continued from front page

Facilities have been booked for July 18-20 in Oberlin, Ohio.

“The projected active workers conference is about workers themselves sharing experiences and figuring out what needs to be done about the crisis, as well as reflecting on past struggles,” said Bryce Phillips, a 22-year-old laid-off food worker and *Militant* supporter from Kent, Wash. “I want to go because it will be enlightening to meet and learn firsthand about workers who have been in struggle, some of whom I have been reading about in the *Militant*.”

“Discuss and organize is what the working class needs to do,” John Bossi, a long-time construction worker, responded when *Militant* supporters from Los Angeles knocked on his door in San Pedro May 4 and raised the idea of working together on such a conference. He bought a copy of the paper, saying he would subscribe in a couple weeks.

“A conference this summer is a great idea,” Miriam Canales, a former teacher, told Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, as she joined him to campaign at a May 7 debate sponsored by the National Organization for Women.

Dozens of subscriptions and books were sold at May Day actions across the country and internationally.

“What caught my attention is that everything in the paper was on the side of the workers. It wasn’t about someone else doing things ‘for us,’” bakery worker Christian Chicas told *Militant* distributors at the Hempstead, N.Y., May 1 action as he bought a subscription.

Annalucia Vermunt reported from Auckland, New Zealand, that *Militant*

supporters visited some of the workers who had subscribed to the paper at the Canterbury Meat Packers Rangitikei plant. They fought a nine-week lock-out in 2011, pushing back some of the company’s worst demands but going back to work with a concession contract.

Union Shed President Mary-Ann Kaka explained that the biggest challenge since going back has been building unity among workers, since some 200 had crossed the picket line during the lockout. Union membership has begun to increase, she added.

Kaka renewed her subscription and bought a copy of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*. She was keen to learn how things had turned out for the American Crystal Sugar workers in North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa who were locked out at the same time. (See “After 20 Months Sugar Workers Approve Contract, Lockout Ends” in May 6 issue.)

*Militant* supporters in Montreal

## ‘*Militant* orients us on fight to end exploitation’

BY LEA SHERMAN

The *Militant* has launched its annual Militant Fighting Fund, with an international goal of raising \$115,000 for the socialist newsweekly this

### MILITANT FIGHTING FUND

spring. The fund drive, which will go hand in hand with the *Militant*’s seven-week subscription campaign, runs from May 4 through June 25.

Unlike the big-business press,



Donald Bossert

Donna and Freddie Lusk, right, sign up for subscription from distributor Maggie Trowe at April 29 UMWA rally in St. Louis. *Militant* supporters sold 50 subscriptions at action.

sold 18 subscriptions last week and 20 copies of *The Cuban Five*, wrote Beverly Bernardo. This includes 17 copies of the newly published French-language edition of the book, three of them sold going door to door.

If you are interested in joining the

effort to expand the circulation of the working-class press and discuss with others the need for a conference of fighting workers, call *Militant* distributors in your region (see directory on page 8) or contact the *Militant* at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com.

which relies on revenue from capitalist advertising, the *Militant* depends on financial support from its working-class readership. The annual drive is used to cover the paper’s operating expenses, as well as reporting trips to report on workers’ struggles and political developments here and around the world.

Every contribution is needed and put to use to advance the “interests of working people,” as the paper’s masthead says.

Supporters of the *Militant* are setting local quotas for the \$115,000 goal

and organizing to win new contributors among working people who value the paper.

*Militant* supporters in New York have adopted a goal of winning 50 first-time contributors during the campaign. One of the first to make a donation is Francisco Veloz, a school bus driver who subscribed to the *Militant* outside a Bronx bus terminal last month, following a monthlong strike by some 9,000 school bus workers against union-busting moves by the New York City government and private bus companies.

Veloz recently renewed his subscription for six months, bought a copy of *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own* and gave \$5 to the fund.

“The *Militant* provides us with information so that we can all see the things workers are being subjected to and how we’re treated under capitalism,” said Veloz. “It orients us on how we can struggle, how we can fight to end exploitation.”

To contribute, contact a distributor listed on page 8 or send a check or money order made out to the *Militant* to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

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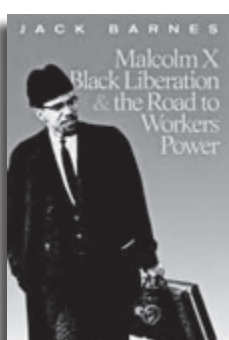
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on page 8



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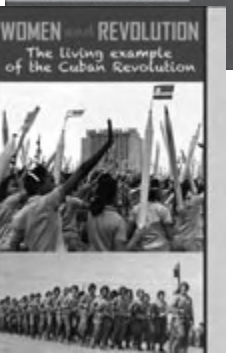
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## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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#### San Francisco

**Hong Kong Dockworkers Strike.** Speaker: Carole Lesnick, Socialist Workers Party. Featuring video of the strike. Fri., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

### AUSTRALIA

#### Sydney

**The *Militant*’s Role in the Fight to Strengthen the Workers’ Movement.** A Militant Fighting Fund event. Fri., May 17, 7 p.m. Refreshments followed by program. Donation: \$5 waged, \$3 unwaged. Upstairs, 281-287 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718 9698.

# May 1 actions across country

**Continued from front page**

labor unions, church groups and immigrant advocate organizations supporting congressional immigration “reform” legislation, including a bill currently before the U.S. Senate, though many are critical of some of its provisions.

More than 3,000 people marched in Chicago. “We’re not criminals, we’re not terrorists, we are workers,” Brian Mendoza, a worker at a pallet company, told the *Militant*.

His coworker Luis Adalpe said that workers at the plant only earn minimum wage. “We’re fighting for something better,” he said.

“None of the proposals they’re discussing in Congress are good enough,” said Celina Martínez, a plastics worker from Des Moines, Iowa, who came to Chicago with three coworkers. “We need better ones, we need residency and the right to become citizens.”

“The companies divide us, but I’m here to speak out against mistreatment of my Latino brothers and sisters,” said Robert Hines, a warehouse worker who is African-American.

“None of us can stand by and allow brothers and sisters to be deported based on who they are and where they were born,” added Hines’ coworker Elce Redmond.

Sen. Richard Durbin, one of the authors of the bill currently before the Senate, was one of the featured speakers at the Chicago rally. “We have the best chance we’ve had in 25 years to pass comprehensive immigration reform this year,” he told the crowd. “We have to seize that opportunity.”

“The bill is a good start and it needs some improvement,” Monica Trevino, a spokesperson for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, which helped organize the Chicago rally, said later in a phone interview.

The bill, written by four Democratic and four Republican senators known as the “gang of eight,” holds out the promise of a more than 10-year-long, obstacle-laden “road to citizenship” for millions who qualify. It also contains provisions that deepen attacks on workers rights and further criminalize undocumented workers.

If passed, the bill would make it mandatory for all employers to use a Department of Homeland Security database to “E-Verify” if new hires have permission to work, add thou-

sands of immigration cops at the U.S.-Mexico border, order the tripling of the number of immigrants prosecuted for felony violations for “illegal entry” or reentry into the United States, and take steps toward a national ID card that could be used to blacklist trade union militants and others who the bosses deem undesirable.

It also massively expands a “guest worker” program for agriculture and authorizes a new one for construction and industry, a big boon to bosses who complained that the Barack Obama administration’s stepped-up enforcement of immigration laws had dried up their source of cheap labor.

Several thousand marched in New York City. The march was co-sponsored by some 25 union locals and official union bodies, the May 1 coalition and immigrant groups. The leaflet was headlined, “Labor Rights, Immigrant Rights, Jobs for All: Stand Up for the Rights of All Workers to Join a Union” and continued, “This year we can pass comprehensive immigration reform.”

Laborers International Union Local 78’s spirited contingent led chants of “Union, union.” The local organizes asbestos, lead and hazardous waste handlers. “Winning rights for everyone is important for justice and our safety,” said asbestos worker Jorge Saavedra. “It’s harder to fight if you don’t have papers.”

Mariana Calle, another asbestos worker, commented on the deaths at West Fertilizer in Texas and in Bangladesh after the collapse of a building housing several garment factories. “We have better conditions because we have a union” where we work, she said.

## ‘Stop criminalizing immigrants’

About 50 people marched in Hempstead, Long Island.

# Guantánamo hunger strike protests conditions

**Continued from front page**

remaining Guantánamo prisoners were refusing to eat, according to U.S. officials. Attorneys for some detainees say the figure is actually closer to 130. The military is currently force-feeding 23 prisoners through their nostrils. Five of them have been hospitalized.

American Medical Association President Dr. Jeremy Lazarus stated in an April 25 letter to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel that “force feeding of detainees violates core ethical values of the medical profession,” according to the *Miami Herald*.

“There is a growing problem of more and more detainees on a hunger strike,” Dianne Feinstein, Democratic senator and chairperson of the Senate Intelligence Committee, wrote in an April 25 letter to President Barack Obama’s national security director. Feinstein requested the administration review the status of the 86 detainees cleared for release or transfer in the past, to find “suitable places to continue to hold or resettle these detainees either in their home countries or third countries.”

The International Red Cross also sent a delegation to the Guantánamo prison at the end of April for an “assessment visit.”

Some media coverage of the Guantánamo hunger strike has recalled

## Havana May Day march defends Cuban Revolution



Militant/Jacob Perasso

HAVANA—Two hundred fifty thousand march in support of Cuba’s revolutionary leadership here May 1 behind the banner “Orgullosos de Nuestra Obra” (Proud of our work). Action was overwhelmingly working people of Havana and surrounding provinces. Salvador Mesa, general secretary of the CTC (Central Organization of Cuban Workers) and a vice president of the Council of State, addressed the action, noting the high levels of unemployment worldwide and declining wages caused by the worldwide capitalist economic crisis. Mesa called for the broadest solidarity to break the “wall of silence” on the truth about the Cuban Five.

—JACOB PERASSO

Osman Canales, a student at Suffolk Community College, listed what he saw as the problems with the gang of eight bill. “E-Verify, border enforcement, the fines, the long wait,” he said. “It’s about time for them to stop criminalizing our community.”

Workers involved in contract fights or other disputes with bosses brought their struggle to win solidarity to many of the actions. In New York City a contingent of locked-out workers from Trade Fair joined the march. Meat department workers at the supermarket chain were locked out on March 13.

Nearly a dozen workers fired from

Dobake Bakery joined the demonstration in Oakland, Calif. Some 125 workers were fired recently after the immigration cops carried out an I-9 audit there.

“They gave me a letter and said I had 72 hours to get my papers straight,” said Olga Jiménez, a muffin packager who had worked at the bakery for 17 years. The fired workers demand back pay, pensions and severance pay.

*Betsy Farley wrote from Chicago, Sara Lobman from New York. Laura Garza in Chicago and Willie Cotton in San Francisco contributed to this article.*



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Participants in May Day New York march.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

### Chicago fast-food workers: '\$7.25 got to go, \$15 and a union!'

CHICAGO — Hundreds of fast-food and retail workers here walked off the job April 24 and joined protest actions demanding higher wages. They picketed stores and restaurants and marched with other workers from Detroit, Milwaukee and St. Louis through the Magnificent Mile shopping area.

Before the march stepped off a group of workers sang, "\$7.25 has got to go ... \$15 and a union," referring to the \$7.25 an hour federal minimum wage and their demands for a pay hike.

"I have to try to take care of my family on these wages and it's just not enough," Andre Rodgers, 20, a worker at Kentucky Fried Chicken who came with a carload of workers from Milwaukee, told the *Militant*. "We only get 25 to 28 hours a week. So after taxes I take home about \$285 for two weeks' work."

"They promise us 30 to 35 hours a week," said Jennette Foster, 18, a McDonald's worker from Detroit. "But I haven't got that once. Nobody else I've talked to gets it. I make \$7.40 an hour and many days I get sent home because they've called too many people in."

"Low wages aren't just a problem in fast food and retail," said Helen Albea, a member of Service Employees International Union Local 1 at Community Care Systems, a senior care facility in Chicago. "I've been with the company for more than six years and only make \$10.35 an hour. That's not really enough either. If fast-food workers win a wage increase it will help us. Our contract is up in June."

— John Hawkins

### Drivers at New Zealand gas company strike for contract

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — "We're overworked, not paid enough, and we want to feel safer at work," said Lenny Whittingham, 23, on the picket line April 26. He is one of the drivers at Rockgas who went on strike that day to win a collective union contract.

The workers fill and deliver LPG gas cylinders. Strikers on the picket line said they start at 6 a.m. and work until deliveries are finished — as much as 13 and a half hours later.

Cylinders weigh up to 80 kilograms (176 pounds), and drivers deliver them single-handedly. Whittingham said the company gave two injured drivers six weeks to recover, then fired them because they couldn't deliver by themselves.

Workers say they earn \$NZ2 an hour less (US\$1.70) than drivers at other gas supply companies.

Three months ago nine out of the 10 drivers at Rockgas decided to join FIRST Union after a coworker was fired following a customer complaint.

Nick Robinson, a spokesperson for Contact Energy, which owns Rockgas, told the *Militant* by phone that the company was "disappointed the dispute has escalated because we are still in active discussion with the union." He wouldn't comment further on the dispute.

— Janet Roth

### US Steel locks out nearly 1,000 Steelworkers in Ontario

MONTREAL — Workers at Lake Erie Works in Nanticoke, Ontario, set up round-the-clock picket lines April 28 after being locked out by United States Steel Corp. Members of United Steelworkers Local 8782, which organizes 978 workers at the plant, voted 70 percent a week earlier to reject the company's "final offer."

U.S. Steel employs some 49,000 people in the U.S., Canada and Central Europe. Lake Erie Works accounts for 10 percent of U.S. Steel's flat-rolled steel.

"A central issue is the attempt by the company to introduce for the first time copayments on health benefits," Terry



Militant/Baskaran Appu

Members of FIRST Union picket Rockgas in Auckland, New Zealand, April 26 in fight for union contract. "We're overworked, not paid enough," said striker Lenny Whittingham.

Barnard, chair of the strike defense committee, told the *Militant* by phone.

"U.S. Steel also wants to modify cost of living allowance provisions to the point of making them meaningless," Barnard added. "In the last 12 years, we had no wage raise except through this COLA. In addition the company wants to reduce vacation time for most workers."

Workers at the Lake Erie Works were

locked out for eight months 2009-2010 and at U.S. Steel's Hamilton plant from November 2010 to October 2011.

U.S. Steel did not respond to the *Militant's* request for comment.

Send messages of solidarity to Bill Ferguson, Local 8782 president, at billferguson@uswa8782.com or by mail at P.O. Box 220, Jarvis, Ontario, N0J 1J0.

— Michel Dugré

## 'Cuba and Angola,' other Pathfinder books placed in stores, libraries

BY NICK CASTLE

Pathfinder's latest title, *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own*, is getting on the shelves of bookstores and libraries, where along with other books by Pathfinder Press it can reach more workers and others with a growing thirst for revolutionary working-class politics. In early March, volunteers staffing Pathfinder's booth at the Tucson Festival of Books sold all six copies of the book they had with them. Other orders for the title came from four bookstores in Minneapolis, two in Toronto and San Francisco; 12 libraries in Los Angeles, three in Miami, two in New York and two high school libraries in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Volunteers in the U.S. and Canada have adopted a goal of winning 125 orders of Pathfinder books from bookstores, public and college libraries, pro-

fessors for their classes, and other institutions over a 19-week effort that began March 8.

Last fall 59 volunteers in 17 cities won 128 orders for Pathfinder. Of special note was the timely placement of the 50th anniversary edition of *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba*. Among the highlights, a bookstore chain in Canada stocked the title in 23 stores. Seventeen places ordered copies of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should be Free*, reflecting growing interest in the international fight to free the framed-up revolutionaries.

In early April, a Black and African history-oriented bookstore in the Toronto area ordered 40 books, including *The Cuban Five*, *Cuba and Angola* and *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution*, an-

other new title from Pathfinder. As Pathfinder volunteer Susie Berman was leaving the store, the owner said, "Oh, and one copy of *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* I want to read that."

Salespeople in Minneapolis report an independent bookstore representative "has a lot of respect for Pathfinder" and made an order for eight titles. Also in the Twin Cities, a major university bookstore ordered a dozen books — its first order in several years.

The work of Pathfinder sales volunteers also includes expanding sales on the Internet. Orders on Amazon.com continue to grow. *The Communist Manifesto* led individual sales in 2012, followed by the writings and speeches of Malcolm X, Thomas Sankara and Che Guevara. Recently Pathfinder began to sell through Amazon in Canada.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 20, 1988

LONDON — Thousands of seafarers around Britain are battling to defend their union from a massive attack by the shipping companies.

Dock workers from Merseyside in Liverpool have called for a national dockers' strike to back the seafarers.

In addition, hundreds of independent lorry drivers (truckers) from several countries, who are trying to get goods across the English Channel, have blockaded the ports of Dover in England, and Calais and Dunkirk in France.

The seafarers' strike began Feb. 2. Members of the National Union of Seamen walked off the job in Dover trying to prevent a union-busting attempt by P&O European Ferries. Management is trying to eliminate jobs and make drastic inroads into wages and working conditions of seafarers who operate ferries between Britain and the European continent.



May 20, 1963

NEW YORK, May 15 — Several thousand persons attended a Harlem street-corner rally here last night and demanded that federal troops be used to support the Negroes of Birmingham. The rally adopted a series of demands including:

1) The sending of federal troops to Alabama; 2) the arrest and jailing of any government official using dogs or fire hoses against demonstrators; 3) immediate release of all arrested demonstrators and that none will be prosecuted; 4) an end to job discrimination.

The two themes that got the biggest response were that the problem of racial injustice is intolerable in the North too, and neither Democrats nor Republicans deserve the support of Negroes.

Malcolm X, who spoke briefly in the early part of the meeting, observed that Kennedy had not acted until the Negroes struck back at the white violence.



May 21, 1938

NEW YORK — The aerial might of American imperialism was put on display here this week as the maneuvers of the Army's General Headquarters Air Force ended exercises which extended over a week, following closely the navy exercises in the Pacific. Army maneuvers, organized on the largest scale ever witnessed, are still proceeding and will not be completed until Fall.

Bearing witness to the fact that the Roosevelt government considers U.S. involvement in war nearer than at any time during the past 20 years, every endeavor was made in the air force maneuvers to simulate, as closely as possible, actual wartime conditions.

It is obvious that, in the first place, the aerial maneuvers and their results are to be used as justification for voting additional huge air force appropriation — to accelerate the war preparations program of the Roosevelt administration.

### Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle.

First in a four-volume series. The other books are *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics* and *Teamster Bureaucracy*.

Also in Spanish, Swedish, Farsi, French.

*PathfinderPress.com*



# White House lures workers into ‘home ownership’ trap

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Six years ago, millions began losing their homes across the country, as the bubble of unpayable mortgage debts — sliced up and repackaged as “financial instruments” to be sold to investors — deflated along with the housing market, a pillar of capitalist finance and speculation. Today, the White House, under the banner of combating racial discrimination, is working overtime to lure working people to buy into the illusion of becoming “property owners” and taking on debt most will never be able to pay off.

“The Obama administration is engaged in a broad push to make more home loans available to people with weaker credit, an effort that officials say will help power the economic recovery,” reported the *Washington Post* April 2.

According to recent articles on the WND.com website and in the *Investor’s Business Daily*, the Justice Department has:

- Threatened banks with lawsuits if they don’t push loans in “minority communities” and demanded lenders open branches in working-class neighborhoods of cities hard-hit by foreclosures like Detroit and St. Louis.

- Forced big mortgage lenders like Wells Fargo and Bank of America to provide 30-year loans to what banks refer to as “high-risk” borrowers under threat of prosecution.

- Issued orders mandating lenders advertise in “minority media” and offer loans to people on public assistance.

- Resurrected a Clinton-era regulation that warns lenders they must be more flexible with minority home buyers with weak credit to make up for “past discrimination.”

Banks have their own reasons to resist the White House campaign, which will ensure those with the least resources get mired in debt.

From the late 1960s, under the pressure of declining rates of profit, the capitalists who own the banks, factories, mines and mills turned more and more to trading in debt and other financial papers instead of investing to expand production and hire more workers.

This shift included extending credit to low-paid workers in the form of credit cards, student loans, auto financing, “subprime” mortgages and home equity loans.

Successive Democratic and Republican administrations worked with the Federal Reserve Bank to eliminate regulatory obstacles to blowing up huge bubbles of debt, including in the housing market.

The lending profiteers lured workers and layers of the middle classes with little or no credit into buying homes. As usual, the scheme appeared to work until it didn’t, imploding at the end of 2006 as high-interest subprime loans and dropping house prices crushed the finances and home-owning illusions of millions. This in turn helped trigger a massive banking and financial crisis, as one of the first major symptoms of a worldwide economic crisis rooted in a slowdown of capitalist production and trade.

While banks have since tightened

lending practices, the government today stands behind about 90 percent of all mortgages to “stimulate” the housing market.

Promoting the fraud of home ownership for working people doesn’t just serve the capitalists by propping up a balloon of debt as an avenue for speculative profits amid a slowdown in production. Getting workers to develop a false view that they too can be property owners that share common interests with other proprietors also serves as a cornerstone of capitalist social stability.

In his 2007 memoir *The Age of Turbulence*, former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan answered criticisms of his support for subprime housing loans for working people. “It was worth the risk,” in order to boost home ownership, he said. “The protection of property rights, so critical to a market economy, requires a critical mass of owners to sustain political support.”

In his booklet *The Housing Question*, written in 1872-73, communist leader Frederick Engels described how the bosses use home ownership to tie workers to the capitalist system, entangling us in debt that conservatizes us and makes us less mobile.

“Give [workers] their own houses, chain them once again to the soil, and break their power of resistance [during] a big strike or a general industrial crisis,” Engels wrote.

There is no solution to the housing problems workers face under capitalism

## Bangladesh garment workers fight to protect life and limb



Associated Press

Garment workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh, protest unsafe work conditions May 5, two weeks after landlord and bosses’ drive for profit killed more than 700 workers when the shoddy Rana Plaza, a building housing five garment factories, collapsed. Garment bosses insisted workers continue working in spite of cracks opening up in the wall that led to the evacuation of a bank and shops.

The number of workers confirmed dead continues to rise as debris is cleared. More than 1,000 were reported injured. Bosses have refused to release a list of employees.

“If these workers were able to organize, this wouldn’t have happened,” Kalpona Akter, a leader of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity, said to the *Financial Times* May 3. “If they had unions, as soon as they saw cracks they could have raised their voice.”

For about a week following the collapse, striking workers shut down many of the country’s garment factories, as tens of thousands took to the streets. National outrage forced the government to arrest the landlord and factory owners. On May 7 hundreds of survivors joined a protest blocking a major highway near the plaza, demanding payment of at least four months’ salary.

—EMMA JOHNSON

in which housing, and every other social necessity, is a commodity.

For working people, as 2008 showed once again, there is no “security” in home ownership. The only road forward is working-class solidarity and

struggle along the road to wresting political power from the capitalist exploiters. Our class in power would expropriate the capitalist landlords who live off rent and ensure housing — attractive, clean and roomy — for all.

# Utah miners fight bosses drive against union, safety

Continued from front page

Coal as part of bankruptcy proceedings.

“Hi. I’m from coal country. Would you like a flyer on how MidAmerican is attacking our union?” Cheryl Durrant, wife of a retired miner, said to passersby as she and other participants handed out union leaflets with a header that read, “SAFETY FIRST Why does MidAmerican want to put miners’ lives at greater risk?”

“Just up the canyon from Deer Creek, nine miners and rescuers were killed in 2007, when the nonunion Crandall Canyon mine collapsed because of failures by management to safely operate the mine,” the flyer said. Among those employed at Deer Creek are miners who used to work at Crandall Canyon before the collapse, as well as veterans of the disaster at the Wilberg Mine in Emery County, Utah, where bosses’ profit drive led to an explosion in 1984 that killed 27 miners.

The bosses at Deer Creek want “to gut the union’s safety committee by reducing the size from 14 members to three,” Kim Brady, who has worked at the mine for 29 years, told the *Militant*. “That means one safety committee member per shift.” According to the union, bosses also want to replace the rank-and-file elected safety committee with one hand-picked by the company.

Ralph Keele, chairman of the union safety committee, said he was

fired March 7 after filing a complaint with the Mine Safety and Health Administration for “tagging out unsafe mine equipment and for physical abuse by the mine manager.”

Keele, who has worked at the mine for 32 years, and another fired miner were reinstated by a court order in April. A third fired miner is awaiting a hearing.

A day after the rally here, the miners’ bus headed west to Omaha, Neb., to protest outside the CenturyLink Convention Center during the annual stockholders meeting of Berkshire Hathaway, the conglomerate of well-known capitalist Warren Buffet and parent company of MidAmerican Energy.

Joining the action in Omaha were a group of retired UMWA miners from Moberly, Mo. Clifford McClintock, a former Utah miner who now works in a Steelworkers-organized factory, drove up from Springfield, Mo.

“They’re going after everything the union stands for,” Lou Shelley, a UMWA District 22 representative, told the *Militant*. “They want to gut our safety and health care. Miners can’t take personal days, holidays or vacation until a new contract is approved.”

Shelley said Deer Creek bosses want contract provisions that would allow hiring of nonunion contract labor and for bosses to perform union work. The company hasn’t hired any

new miners for a long time, Shelley said. “We have lost 35 members, who either quit or retired. They want to whittle the union down through attrition.”

Shelley, who worked at the Deer Creek mine for more than 30 years, was president of UMWA Local 1769 during the hard-fought strike in 2003-2004 at the Co-Op Mine near Huntington. His local provided crucial labor solidarity during that struggle.

“Energy West Mining Company is bargaining in good faith” and “committed to a fair resolution,” Maria O’Mara, company spokesperson, said in a phone interview. Energy West directly operates Deer Creek and is a subsidiary of PacifiCorp, which is a subsidiary of MidAmerican.

“They want to take away the health benefits of the widows, too,” said Arlene Schade, a miners’ widow from Wellington, Utah. “These men gave up a lot to win medical care. We are not asking for government handouts, just what our husbands earned.”

Schade said her father and six uncles all got black lung. “They all worked most of their lives in the UMWA and were part of building it. I feel honored to be asked to come on this trip. It’s my turn to help now.”

The UMWA is organizing protest actions against Patriot Coal May 21 in St. Louis and June 4 in the Evansville, Ind., area.

# Gov't targeted communists, unions after Bolshevik Revolution

Decades of FBI spying, disruption against Socialist Workers Party rooted in party's revolutionary continuity

BY JOHN STUDER

Last week the *Militant* reported on the victory won by the Socialist Workers Party and SWP election campaigns extending through 2016 a hard-fought exemption from turning over names of contributors to the Federal Election Commission. First won in 1974, the exemption strengthens the ability of workers and our organizations to engage in independent working-class political action free from government, boss or right-wing interference.

For decades the FBI, other cop agencies and "intelligence" squads, employers and rightist thugs have spied on the SWP and organized firings and harassment of its supporters. Exposed through a lawsuit filed by the party against the FBI in 1973 and won in 1986, this evidence was central to winning the exemption. That record was buttressed by

## SWP VICTORY IN CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BATTLE

some 70 declarations by SWP campaign supporters, *Militant* readers and others detailing new attacks since 2009.

While today the employers and their government rationalize attacks on political rights in the name of combating "terrorism," their real target remains the working class and its vanguard organizations. That's clear from papers pried from the FBI in recent years, cited in letters to the FEC filed on the SWP's behalf in 2012-13 by attorneys Michael Krinsky and Lindsey Frank.

A 2012 Freedom of Information Act fight, for example, brought to light federal spying on labor actions in solidarity with longshore workers in Longview, Wash., fighting a union-busting lockout. The SWP was actively involved in those actions. A 2010 report by the Justice Department's Inspector General, issued in response to revelations of spying on anti-war and environmental groups, cited as one of the FBI's reasons for surveillance of the *Catholic Worker* its alleged "communistic" views.

The Socialist Workers Party and its forerunners have been targeted from

their origins because the capitalist rulers hate the example set by the party's involvement in battles of workers, farmers and the oppressed. Using the *Militant* and books and pamphlets, socialist workers get out lessons of working-class battles the world over. Through SWP election campaigns, the party champions labor struggles and points a road toward the revolutionary fight for working-class political power.

The SWP's origins go back to working-class militants who founded the Communist Party in the U.S. They organized to follow the example of workers and farmers in Russia who conquered power from capitalists and landlords in October 1917, under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party led by V.I. Lenin.

In 1918-19 labor battles mounted in the U.S., as bosses fattened their profits during the interimperialist slaughter of World War I. Not only was the country rocked by a strike wave in meatpacking, textile, copper mining and steel — but the Bolshevik Revolution was looked to by many workers across the U.S.

In February 1919 the country's first general strike took place in Seattle. Later that year longshoremen there refused to load 50 freight cars of rifles onto government-chartered ships bound for counterrevolutionary armies fighting to overthrow the workers and farmers government in Russia.

Militants of the young communist movement were involved in labor battles, reaching out to the mass of unorganized industrial workers, and in efforts to combat racism and violence against African-Americans and the deportation of immigrant workers.

The bosses used both private goons and the government to put down the upsurge. A key part of this repression was targeting communists. The Department of Justice's recently created Bureau of Investigation launched what became known as the Palmer Raids, named after Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer.

Using new laws against "sedition" and "criminal syndicalism," Justice Department agents and local cops unleashed spies and provocateurs, smashed offices of unions and communist organizations, and joined with anti-labor outfits to break up gatherings of working-class parties. A special target was revolutionary-minded immigrant workers, who had fewer legal protections. More than 3,000 such militants were arrested and 750 deported in 1919 and 1920.

Washington went after publications championing Black rights, especially the *Messenger*, which solidarized with the Russian Revolution and urged African-Americans to join unions, and the NAACP's *Crisis*.

As revolutionary groups attracted to the Bolsheviks' example organized to form a single Communist Party and find ways to carry out public propaganda and mass work amid these attacks, they launched a campaign in 1921 for mayor of New York on the Workers League ticket. The candidate, Benjamin Gitlow, was in prison at the time on frame-up "subversive" charges.

In 1922 federal agents and local cops raided the Communist Party convention in Bridgman, Mich., aided by reports



Top, AP Photo/The Daily News, Bill Wagner

From victory of 1917 Bolshevik Revolution to today, U.S. rulers have targeted working-class militants and communists for spying and disruption. Top, 2011 police assault on longshore workers resisting union busting in Longview, Wash.; government files reveal federal spying on dockworkers and backers. Bottom, 17 delegates to Communist Party 1922 convention in Michigan, arrested for "criminal syndicalism" by federal and state cops; CP leader Charles Ruthenberg (front, fifth from left) was sentenced to 3-10 years in prison.

from a government informer. Seventeen delegates were arrested and charged under the state criminal syndicalism law. CP leader Charles Ruthenberg was convicted and sentenced to three to 10 years in prison. The party helped form the Labor Defense Council to support those arrested, winning backing from union officials, Socialist Party leader Eugene V. Debs, religious figures and Roger Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The ferocity of government attacks ebbed later in the 1920s, as Communist Party militants expanded public activities in the unions, on the street and through election campaigns. But the Bureau of Investigation and local "Red Squads" had begun what would become the norm in the U.S., targeting revolutionary-minded workers. In the 1930s they launched new assaults on the labor movement and Socialist Workers Party, as we'll recount in the next issue.

## Why revolutionaries condemn terror methods, from Boston to Colombia

BY JOHN STUDER

Evidence continues to surface that the two suspects in the April 15 bombing of the Boston Marathon had connections to reactionary Islamist jihadist forces, posing the question, where do these forces come from and what should be the stance of working people toward them and the methods they employ?

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev reportedly told special FBI interrogators that he and his deceased brother Tamerlan Tsarnaev were inspired by online speeches by Anwar al-Awlaki, an American-born cleric and al-Qaeda leader assassinated by a U.S. drone in Yemen in 2011. Tsarnaev also said he and his brother used instructions published in the al-Qaeda online magazine *Inspire* to build their bombs.

Al-Qaeda and similar groups rely on terrorist actions and indiscriminate killings to instill fear, divisions and submissiveness among working people. The bombing in Boston is one of many signs that these anti-working-class Islamist groups continue to gain adherents from northern Africa to the Caucasus. Above

all, these forces gain a hearing amid the political vacuum of leadership left by decades of counterrevolutionary betrayals of the toilers by Stalinist and petty-bourgeois nationalist forces that claimed the mantle of struggles against imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation, but acted to block all possibilities for revolution.

The leadership of socialist Cuba stands on the highest moral ground in relation to the question of the anti-working-class character of any form of terrorism, for any purpose, by anyone. During the 1956-58 Cuban revolutionary war and since, Fidel Castro and other leaders never used or condoned terrorist methods, or any actions that could result in deaths of innocent people, or any form of torture or humiliation of enemy combatants.

On April 16, Josefina Vidal, director of Cuba's Foreign Ministry North American Affairs Division, delivered a note from the country's revolutionary government to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, saying Cuba "rejects and

Continued on page 9

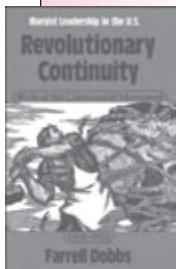
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*Marxist Leadership in U.S.*

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by Margaret Jayko

Record of 1986 victory in 13-year SWP legal battle against FBI, CIA, and other government spy agencies. \$20



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# Cuba's Rebel Army and peasants became 'unbeatable force'

*Below is an excerpt from Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War 1956-58, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. In the book, Ernesto Che Guevara provides a firsthand account of the military campaigns and political events that culminated in the January 1959 popular insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba. The piece reprinted here describes the situation in December 1957. Copyright © 1996 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

Living in a continual state of war creates a new state of mind in the popular consciousness in order to adapt to this new phenomenon. The individual must undergo a long and painful process of adaptation to enable him to withstand the bitter experience that threatens his tranquility. The Sierra Maestra and other newly liberated zones had to undergo this bitter experience.

The situation of the peasants in the rugged mountain zones was nothing less than frightful. The peasant, having migrated from afar with a yearning for freedom, had put all his efforts into squeezing out an existence from the newly cleared land. Through a thousand and one sacrifices he had coaxed the coffee plants to grow on the craggy



Institute of Cuban History

**Members of Che Guevara's Rebel Army column and peasants in the Sierra Maestra, close to New Year's Day 1958. Guevara is seated in front row under banner with stick in hand.**

slopes where creating anything new entails sacrifice. All this he did by his own sweat, responding to the age-old yearning of man to possess his own plot of land, working with infinite love this hostile crag, which he treated as part of his very self.

Suddenly, when the coffee plants were beginning to blossom with the fruit that represented his hope, the lands were claimed by a new owner. It might be a foreign company, a local land-grabber, or some other speculator taking advantage of peasant indebtedness. The political bosses and local army chieftains worked for the company or the land-grabber, jailing or murdering any peasant who was unduly rebellious against these arbitrary acts.

Such was the panorama of defeat and desolation that we found, paralleling our own defeat at Alegría de Pío, the product of our inexperience (our only reverse in this long campaign, our bloody baptism of fire). The peasantry recognized those lean men whose beards, now legendary, were beginning to flourish, as companions in misfortune, fresh victims of the repressive forces, and gave us their spontaneous and disinterested aid, without expecting anything in return from the vanquished rebels.

Days passed and our small troop of now seasoned soldiers sustained the victories of La Plata and Palma Mocha. The regime responded with all its brutality,

including the mass murder of peasants. Terror was unleashed on the rustic valleys of the Sierra Maestra, and the peasants withdrew their aid. A barrier of mutual mistrust loomed up between the peasants and the guerrillas, the former out of fear of reprisals, the latter out of fear of betrayal by the weak-willed. Our policy, nevertheless, was a just and understanding one, and the peasant population began once more to return to our cause.

The dictatorship, in its desperation and criminality, ordered the resettlement of thousands of peasant families from the Sierra Maestra to the cities. ...

Hunger, misery, illness, epidemics, and death decimated the peasants resettled by the tyranny. Children died for lack of medical attention and food, when a few steps away the resources existed that could have saved their lives. The indignant protest of the Cuban people, international scandal, and the dictatorship's inability to defeat the rebels compelled the tyrant to suspend the resettlement of peasant families from the Sierra Maestra. ...

Peasants returned with an unbreakable will to struggle until death or victory, as rebels until death or freedom.

Our little guerrilla band, of city extraction, began to don palm leaf hats. The people lost their fear and decided to join the struggle and proceed resolutely along the road to their redemption. In

this change, our policy toward the peasantry and our military victories came together as one, and already we were revealed to be an unbeatable force in the Sierra Maestra.

Faced by the choice, all the peasants chose the path of revolution. The change of mental attitude, of which we have already spoken, now revealed itself fully. The war was a fact—painful, yes, but transitory, a situation within which the individual had to adapt himself in order to survive. Once the peasants understood this, they began to make the efforts necessary to confront the adverse circumstances that would come.

The peasants returned to their abandoned plots of land. They stopped the slaughter of their animals, saving them for worse times to come. They became used to the savage strafings, and each family built its own shelter. They accustomed themselves to periodic flights from the battle zones, with family, cattle, and household goods, leaving only their huts to the enemy, which displayed its hatred by burning them to the ground. They got used to rebuilding on the smoking ruins of their old dwellings, uncomplaining but with concentrated hatred and the will to conquer. ...

It is a new miracle of the revolution that—under the imperative of war—the staunchest individualist, who zealously protected the boundaries of his property and his own rights, joined the great common effort of the struggle. But there is an even greater miracle: the rediscovery by the Cuban peasant of his own happiness, within the liberated zones. Whoever witnessed the apprehensive murmurs with which our forces were formerly received in each peasant household notes with pride the carefree clamor, the happy, hearty laughter of the new Sierra inhabitant. That is a reflection of the self-confidence that the awareness of his own strength gave to the inhabitant of our liberated area. That is our future task: for the Cuban people to regain the concept of their own strength, and to achieve absolute assurance that their individual rights, guaranteed by the constitution, are their dearest treasure. Even more than the pealing of bells, it will be the return of the old, happy laughter, of carefree security, lost by the Cuban people, which will signify liberation.

*May* **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

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**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

# Join, build '5 days for the Cuban 5'

The victory won May 3 when Judge Joan Lenard and U.S. prosecutors announced René González could return to Cuba registers that the fight to win freedom for the Cuban Five is winning support. It underlines the importance of getting out the truth and broadening this campaign among working people in the U.S. and worldwide. One down, four to go!

The frame-up and imprisonment of the Five is part of the U.S. rulers' unrelenting efforts to punish Cuban workers and farmers for defending their socialist course and the political power they wrested from the capitalist exploiters more than five decades ago. A quarter million marched in Havana on May Day in a demonstration of support for the Cuban Revolution, which stands as an example for working people in the U.S. and worldwide.

The fight to free the Five is an integral part of the class struggle in the U.S. and is a fight in the interests of all workers today under assault by the capitalist exploiters — from coal mines in Utah to those in Appalachia, from fast food restaurants across the U.S. to garment factories in Bangladesh.

Moreover, millions in the U.S. can identify with the "justice" meted out to the five by the cops, courts and

prisons, with its frame-ups and plea-bargain expressway to jail, draconian sentences, solitary confinement and other conditions designed to grind down the morale, solidarity and dignity of working people.

The upcoming "5 days for the Cuban 5" in Washington, D.C., from May 30 to June 5, provides an important opportunity to expand the fight and involve more workers, unions, students and others.

As part of the activities supporters of the Five from all over North America, from Miami to Quebec, Minneapolis and Chicago, will rally in front of the White House June 1. From New York two unions are sponsoring buses to the protest: AFSCME Local 372, which organizes teachers aides and other school workers, and SEIU Local 1199, which organizes health care workers.

It will take "a jury of millions" to force the U.S. government to free the Five, as Adriana Pérez, wife of Cuban Five prisoner Gerardo Hernández, said at a recent meeting for the Five in Canada organized by the United Steelworkers. The latest victory should inspire supporters of the Five to reach out further, win new support and fight until all are free. Join the Five days for the Five!

# René González wins return to Cuba

**Continued from front page** life," González said May 6 at a press conference in Havana. "There can be no justice. We endured a long trial plagued with irregularities and absurd sentences. But we will continue the battle until they are returned to Cuba."

González holds dual U.S. and Cuban citizenship, having been born in Chicago before moving to Cuba with his parents when he was five.

His first motion to serve supervised release in Cuba, filed while still in prison, was rejected by Judge Lenard on the basis of his dual citizenship, in spite of the fact that released prisoners with dual citizenship are normally allowed to serve parole in the other country.

The U.S. government urged rejection of his second motion filed last June, despite a long-standing offer by González to renounce his U.S. citizenship. Lenard granted the motion May 3 after the U.S. Justice Department reversed its position and said it would accept the offer.

"The Justice Department explained its turnabout," an Associated Press dispatch reported May 3, "by saying that since González was already in Cuba, there was no longer concern that he would use a promise of citizenship renunciation to improperly return to the island."

On May 6 González went to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to begin the paperwork for renouncing his U.S. citizenship "as bystanders in the streets and on apartment balconies above applauded and called his name," Reuters reported. Known internationally as the Cuban Five, they are called the Five Heroes in Cuba, deeply respected by millions there for their example of determination and steadfastness in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

The Five were living and working in southern Florida where, at the request of Cuban security services, they monitored and kept Havana informed of

activities by armed Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups with a long record of violent attacks on Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution.

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

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

Despite repeated warnings from Havana that the incursions would not continue with impunity, the U.S. government did not stop them. In January 1996 a Brothers to the Rescue operation dropped counter-revolutionary propaganda on the island. The following month, after repeated warnings to turn back, Cuban fighter jets shot down two of the group's planes that had once again entered Cuban airspace.

The Five were arrested in FBI raids in September 1998 and framed up on various conspiracy charges. René González received the shortest sentence — 15 years on charges of failure to register as a foreign agent and conspiracy to act as the unregistered agent of a foreign government.

"I did it as a Cuban patriot and I have no regrets," González is quoted as telling Associated Press in a recent interview. "I've never doubted myself for a second."

González has family in Cuba, including his wife Olga Salanueva, two daughters Irma and Ivette and his mother Irma Schwerert. Salanueva had been barred entry into the U.S. to visit González while he was in prison, as is Adriana Pérez, the wife of Gerardo Hernández who was sentenced to two life terms plus 15 years.

In mid-April Pérez spoke at meetings in Canada organized by the United Steelworkers, one of the largest unions in the country. An example of growing support for the Five, the 650 delegates attending the Steelworkers national convention unanimously adopted a resolution pledging to campaign for the Five's release.

The coming "5 Days for the Cuban 5," which will take place May 30-June 5 in Washington, D.C., are being built as an opportunity to broaden the campaign to free the remaining four revolutionaries. The series of events includes an international rally June 1 in front of the White House.

"The only thing lacking is for people in the U.S. to know the case well," González said at the Havana press conference. "That's why I urge those here to help publicize our cause in the United States."

# Condemn terrorism

**Continued from page 7** condemns unequivocally all acts of terrorism, in any place, under any circumstance, and with whatever motivation."

The Cuban statement offered "the most heartfelt condolences ... to the people and government of the United States, particularly those directly affected by this tragedy."

Cuba's revolutionary leadership has taken the same position regardless of whether such actions are carried out by openly reactionary forces or groups that claim to speak and act in the interests of the toilers and oppressed.

In 2008, for example, Castro criticized the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) for using terrorist measures against civilian captives and captured Colombian soldiers.

"The civilians should have never been kidnapped, neither should the militaries have been kept prisoners in the conditions of the jungle," Castro said. "These were objectively cruel actions. No revolutionary purpose could justify it."

Meanwhile, the big-business press runs near daily reports of police actions in response to supposed new threats that seek to sow fear and garner support to curtail constitutional protections and other workers rights in the interests of public safety.

For example, all subway service to New York's Grand Central Station was shut down at rush hour May 6, the *New York Post* reported, after "someone left behind a knapsack."

Cops in Methuen, Mass., arrested 18-year-old Cameron D'Ambrosio May 1 on felony charges of communicating terrorist threats, a charge that carries up to 20 years, for posting "a threat in the form of a rap" song on Facebook. The *Valley Patriot* reported the youth posted "disturbing" statements online disparaging President Barack Obama and the government.

# LETTERS

## Situation in Turkey

The *Militant* is a great paper. It shows us how to fight back, and explains why these wars against working people in other countries are not in our interests.

The article about the situation in Turkey and the call by Ocalan for a cease-fire is especially interesting. I have read nothing in the local capitalist press about this. The *Militant* provided us workers here with some information about the conditions in Turkey, something we can read about, study and learn from.

Roy Jones  
Brantford, Ontario

## Internships

As a student in a State University, it's almost universally expected that you should work for free. Many people are more worried about getting an internship than a paying job and a lot of young people are frustrated that they would like to do an internship but can't afford to work for free.

Not only is a giant pool of unpaid labor bad for wages and solidarity, but it is entirely about getting a leg up on the people around you, having something they don't have so you've got a shot at a better job for yourself. It reinforces in young people that they shouldn't look to solve their problems collectively but at each other's expense.

Harry D'Agostino  
New Paltz, N.Y.

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**

## 'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

## Corrections

The article "Protest Strikes Rock Bangladesh After Factory Building Collapse: Hundreds Killed by Bosses' Indifference to Workers' Lives" in the May 13 issue quoted worker Sumi Abedin as saying she makes \$62-65 a week. She said that is her monthly wage.

In the same issue, the article "Fight to Free Oscar López from US Prison 'Is Fight for All of Us,'" said five Puerto Rican Nationalists were jailed in 1954 for carrying out an armed protest action in U.S. Congress. Four took part in the action — Rafael Cancel Miranda, Andrés Figueroa Cordero, Irving Flores and Lolita Lebrón. A fifth, Oscar Collazo, was imprisoned four years earlier for participating in an armed attack on the Blair House, the temporary residence of President Harry Truman.