

Subscription campaign on target in second week

BY LOUIS MARTIN

At the end of week two of the seven-week international campaign to win 2,800 subscribers to the *Militant* and sell hundreds of books on revolutionary working-class politics, our chart stands at 996 — right about where we want to be at this point, a little ahead.

Four *Militant* supporters from Los

ACTIVE WORKERS  
CONFERENCE, JULY 19-20  
— See article, p. 3

Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle went to Utah May 16-19 to talk with coal miners and other working people and learn about the struggle by members of the United Mine Workers of America to defend their union at the Deer Creek Mine, the only union mine in the state.

The team sold 23 subscriptions,  
Continued on page 3

Spring 'Militant' subscription campaign				
May 4 - June 25 (week 2)				
Country	quota	sold	%	2,800
UNITED STATES				
Seattle	160	90	56%	
Lincoln	25	11	44%	
Omaha	90	39	43%	
Los Angeles	175	75	43%	
Twin Cities	140	59	42%	
Chicago	180	72	40%	
San Francisco	180	70	39%	
Philadelphia	140	51	36%	
New York	425	143	34%	
Des Moines	140	47	34%	
Miami	90	30	33%	
Washington	90	27	30%	
Houston	140	41	29%	
Boston	65	18	28%	
Atlanta	160	38	24%	
Total U.S.	2200	811	37%	
PRISONERS	15	2	13%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	160	51	32%	
Manchester	100	39	39%	
UK Total	260	90	35%	
CANADA	120	41	34%	
NEW ZEALAND	70	20	29%	
AUSTRALIA	80	32	40%	
Total	2745	996	36%	
Should be	2800	800	29%	

White House targets political opponents and reporters

BY JOHN STUDER  
AND SUSAN LAMONT

Revelations of President Barack Obama's administration targeting political groups and media have exploded since mid-May, shedding light on broader trends toward increasing White House reliance on executive power and encroachments on political rights.

Media reports have detailed actions by the Internal Revenue Service to target hundreds of Tea Party conservative groups for special probes of their tax status. This comes in the guise of promoting campaign financial disclosure of influence by "big money" and "special interests." The agency also singled out supporters of

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Help use, defend  
socialists' campaign  
disclosure victory!  
— editorial, p. 11

Parents of Bronx youth won't let killing by cop become 'cold case'



Militant/Sara Lobman

May 18 protest against decision by judge to dismiss indictment against cop who killed Ramarley Graham on technicality. From left: Carol Gray, mother of Kimani Gray who was killed March 9 by cops in Brooklyn; City Councilman Charles Barron; Frank Graham, Ramarley Graham's father. Far right, Ramarley Graham's mother Constance Malcolm.

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — "The cops keep murdering our kids and the courts don't do anything. We have to do it ourselves," said Constance Malcolm on the fight to prosecute Richard Haste, the cop who shot and killed her 18-year-old son, Ramarley Graham. Malcolm was addressing a May 18 protest of some 150 people in front of her home where Graham was killed

St. Louis: Miners protest Patriot Coal union busting

Next action set for June 4 in Henderson, Ky.



Militant/Laura Anderson

UWMA miners and supporters march in St. Louis May 21 against coal bosses' moves to use Patriot Coal bankruptcy to weaken union and walk away from health and pension obligations for retired miners and their families. Bankruptcy judge is expected to make ruling by May 29.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY  
AND BETSY FARLEY

ST. LOUIS — More than 2,500 protested here May 21 against Patriot Coal Corp.'s attempt to use its bankruptcy filing to go after the miners' union, tearing up contracts for some 2,000 working miners and eliminating pensions and health benefits for retired miners and their spouses.

The rally and march was the ninth protest action since September organized by the United Mine Workers of America against Patriot's union-busting moves. Participants included working and retired coal miners  
Continued on page 4

Fights by Cambodia garment workers grow amid bosses' deadly profit drive

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Bosses' profit-driven disregard for workers' lives killed three and injured 34 in two factory building collapses in Cambodia less than one week apart.

"We are not surprised when they cave in, they are jerry-built buildings that owners put little money in," said Say Sokny, general secretary of the Free Trade Union of Workers in a May 21 phone interview from Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The first factory collapse occurred May 16 about 30 miles south of  
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more than a year ago.

On May 15 Judge Steven Barrett threw out the indictment for manslaughter against Haste, saying the prosecution had incorrectly instructed the grand jury to disregard testimony that other police officers had warned Haste that Graham might have a gun. Barrett says he will allow the prosecution to seek a new indictment.

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# ‘Keep the pressure on’ to free Chicago cop torture victims

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO — More than 100 Illinois inmates whose convictions are based at least in part on “confessions” extracted from cop torture are a little closer to winning new hearings.

On May 7, nearly six months after a class-action lawsuit was filed on the inmates’ behalf, Judge Paul Biebel appointed retired Cook County Justice Stuart Nudelman as special state’s attorney for the case.

The jailed defendants were among the many working people brutalized by the “Midnight Crew” — a gang of detectives headed by Police Lt. Jon Burge that for decades terrorized Chicago’s South Side, beating, suffocating and using other tortures to extract confessions from mainly Black men in their custody.

In June 2010 Burge was convicted on federal charges of perjury and obstruction of justice for lying about the torture in a civil lawsuit. In January 2011 he was sentenced to four and a half years in prison, which he began serving two months later.

Nudelman promised to resolve the cases with dispatch in answer to a question from the press about the foot-dragging process.

“The most significant thing about this decision,” Locke Bowman, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said at a press conference that followed the announcement of Nudelman’s nomination “is that it heads toward acknowledging that all these guys deserve a new hearing, which they do. They all have credible claims of torture. They were all convicted on the basis of false

confessions elicited from them through torture. Their convictions were unconstitutional.”

Among supporters of the still incarcerated victims of Burge who spoke to the press, the mood was somewhat more guarded.

Jeannette Plummer, mother of Johnnie Plummer, pointed out that her son was 15 years old when he was tortured and imprisoned 22 years ago. “He’ll never get that time back,” she said. “And these delays and drawn-out procedures are just adding to it. He should have been out already.”

“Burge’s sentence was four and a half years. That’s a joke,” said Curtistine Deloney, mother of prisoner Javon Deloney. He’ll be out before some of the men he tortured and put behind bars even get another hearing.”

“Even though Nudelman has been appointed special prosecutor, [Cook County State’s Attorney] Anita Alvarez still has the authority to do what’s right and simply drop the charges against all those who were tortured by Burge and his henchmen,” said Wallace Gator Bradley, who is involved in the fight to win release of Burge’s victims.

“The most important thing is to keep the pressure on,” said Mark Clements, who is administrator of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty and spent 28 years in prison based on a “confession” beaten out of him by Burge’s men when he was 16 years old. Torture victim “Grayland Johnson died in prison before ever getting another hearing. Speediness is key here.”



Christine Geovanis

Mark Clements, with sign, at Oct. 22, 2011, demonstration in Chicago. He spent 28 years behind bars after confession extracted through torture by Chicago cops. Lawyers for more than 100 who were tortured have filed suit asking for new hearings to overturn their convictions.

## Australian, US military deepen ties aimed at countering China

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY — The release of a “Defence White Paper” May 3 outlines the Australian government’s deepening collaboration with Washington in a strategic “rebalancing” towards the Asia-Pacific region. Despite diplomatic language about “encouraging China’s peaceful rise,” the steps it lays out are aimed at countering the ascendant economic and military power of Beijing.

At the same time, the document announced by Prime Minister Julia Gillard softens the tone towards Beijing, compared to the previous 2009 white paper. Canberra’s alliance with U.S. imperialism and its rivalry with Beijing is constantly tempered by the fact that China is Australia’s biggest trading partner.

Last month a second detachment of more than 200 U.S. Marines arrived at an Australian army base near Darwin in the Northern Territory for a six-month training stint. Washington and Canberra plan to increase the size of these rotating marine forces to 2,500 in a few years.

The paper confirms that U.S. aircraft, including B-52 strategic bombers and other long-range warplanes, will increasingly make use of Royal Australian Air Force bases in Darwin

and elsewhere in the north.

Plans are underway to build three new destroyers. Already under construction are two amphibious assault ships that are both troop transports and helicopter carriers. These will be the largest ships ever in the Australian navy.

A key part of Canberra’s projections is the building of 12 new long-range submarines with guided-missile capabilities. Building a new fleet of patrol boats has been brought forward to police the borders against asylum seekers.

Among Canberra’s alliances with semicolonial governments, the white paper singled out the importance of its military relationship with Indonesia as key to protecting profitable trade routes through the archipelago to Australia’s north.

Australian forces have also stepped up cooperation with the Japanese military as Tokyo confronts China over disputed islands in the East China Sea and amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula. On May 6, an Australian-guided missile frigate, HMAS Sydney, arrived in Japan to join the U.S. Seventh Fleet. The warship is to be “embedded” with the USS George Washington carrier strike group operating out of Japan’s Yokosuka base, just south of Tokyo.

# THE MILITANT

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Militant/Jacque Henderson  
Michael Fitzsimmons campaigns at NAACP New Orleans summit, April 2012. He is currently SWP candidate for Houston mayor.

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



# Subscription campaign on target

Continued from front page

more than 50 single copies and eight books going door to door in the towns of Huntington, Price, and Helper, and to miners going into work at Deer Creek. (See ad below for books on special with a subscription.)

“It’s money in their pocket,” Pete Eaquina in Helper commented on the deaths of more than 1,100 garment workers in Bangladesh, where the bosses’ drive for profits resulted in a factory building collapse. “And they take it out on the commoner. The number one thing is: people are dispensable. My heart goes out to those poor folks. But it can be conquered. One voice is loud, but a million voices are louder.”

A former miner who worked at Deer Creek and other mines in the area, Eaquina bought a *Militant* subscription.

A team of *Militant* supporters in Australia May 18-19 went to the Hunter Valley, the biggest coal mining region in New South Wales, Joanne Kuniansky reported from Sydney. They sold four subscriptions going door to door.

A team of three supporters sold four subscriptions going door to door May 19 in White Center, just south of Seattle. Ramona Lee, 20, got one of them. She works on a mobile food truck.

“This book empowers women. It’s part of our history, a slice of something not heard of,” Lee said when she saw and bought *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution*, one of the books on special.

James Keppler, a young plumber and pipe fitter in White Center, also signed up. “Workers rights interest me. They are worth fighting for,” he said after looking at the *Militant*. “Where the *Militant* comes from, I’m in.”

He got two of the books on special, *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* and *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*.

During the May 18-19 weekend, *Militant* supporters Frank Forrestal and Diana Newberry from Minneapolis visited long-time subscribers who had been part of a recently concluded 20-month fight against a lockout by American Crystal Sugar at its factories in North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. Four renewed their subscriptions.

Mike Sinh had worked at the Drayton factory for 36 years. In addition to discussing the challenges sugar workers face as they go back to work side by side with former scabs and a 12-hour shift imposed, Sinh was interested in talking about the roots of the capitalist crisis and how workers can defend ourselves.

When shown sections of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, he said, “Let me get that book too.” He

also kicked in \$20 for the Militant Fighting Fund. (See article on page 4.)

“I am currently incarcerated and came across your newspaper from the guy in the cell next to me. It’s fabulous! Could you please send me a subscription?” wrote a prisoner from Florida. His request puts us at two prisoners subscriptions.

His example shows how our readers behind bars help expand the circulation of the socialist newsweekly among fellow workers in jail.

To join the campaign to expand circulation of the working-class press, call *Militant* distributors in your region listed on page 10 or contact the *Militant* at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com.



Militant/Clay Dennison

Former coal miner Joseph Jensen bought subscription along with *The Cuban Five* and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, both on special offer, when Eleanor García knocked on his door in Huntington, Utah, May 18.

## Building active workers conference July 19-20

BY LOUIS MARTIN

With nine weeks to go before a two-day active workers conference opens in Oberlin, Ohio, Fri., July 19, *Militant* distributors and readers are talking with workers and others engaged in labor struggles, actions in defense of the Cuban Five, and other political activity about participating in the gathering.

Organized by the Socialist Workers Party, the conference will feature talks by party leaders on the world

capitalist crisis, working-class politics, and how to build a mass social movement that can chart a course toward the revolutionary fight for workers power.

The talks, as well as classes, will take up lessons from previous revolutionary struggles, including the Bolshevik-led revolution in Russia in 1917, the Cuban Revolution and its weight and place in the world class struggle today, and many other political questions addressed in the pages of

the *Militant*.

Supporters of the communist movement attending the gathering — who help produce the books socialist workers use in their political work, and who help finance the party’s efforts — will meet July 21 to discuss expanding their work.

“For me it’s interesting that there will be people coming from other states. I want to know what they think, what ideas they have, and what they see workers in different parts of the country have in common,” Mario Ottoniel, a construction worker in New York, told the *Militant*. That’s why he decided to attend the conference, he said.

“I hope there is discussion on how to organize workers like those of us who don’t work in big factories or who work in smaller places like restaurants where there is no union,” Ottoniel added. “How to organize everyone.”

Ottoniel’s and other participants from the U.S. and other countries will take part in discussions, classes, and other activities at the conference. Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, as well as others campaigning for SWP candidates and selling *Militant* subscriptions, are building the gathering, including discussing how to get time off work, organize transportation and raise money to cover costs.

Coming out of the *Militant* spring subscription campaign, the conference will discuss the next steps in expanding the circulation of the socialist newsweekly and of books and pamphlets, in many languages, such as *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own*, *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, and others that record experiences of working people the world over yesterday and today.

To learn more, call *Militant* distributors in your area (see page 10) or contact us at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com.

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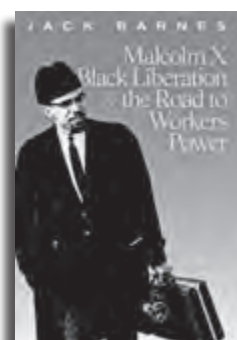


### The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

by Jack Barnes

\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)



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

by Jack Barnes

\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)



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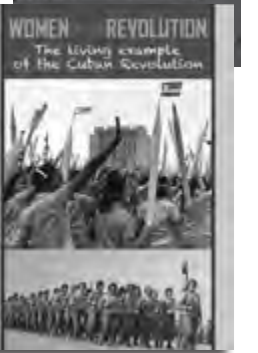


### Women in Cuba

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution

by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer

\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)



### Women and Revolution

The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution

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

\$3 with subscription (regular \$7)

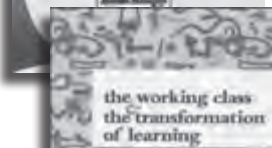


### The Cuban Five

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

from pages of the ‘Militant’

\$3 with subscription (regular \$5)



### The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

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by Jack Barnes

\$2 with subscription (regular \$3)

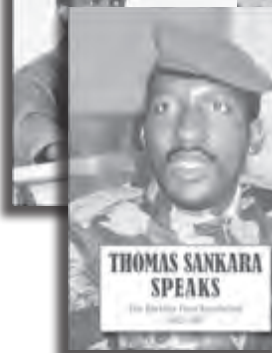


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by Thomas Sankara

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\$5 with subscription (regular \$10)



### Thomas Sankara Speaks

The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-1987

\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

See distributors on page 10



# Killing by cop in Bronx

Continued from front page

“We will not allow this case to go cold,” Frank Graham, Ramarley’s father, told the rally. “This is not over. We will do anything necessary to get justice.”

Haste, an undercover narcotics cop, shot Graham at close range inside the Graham home in the Wakefield neighborhood of the Bronx, Feb. 2, 2012.

After the killing, cops initially claimed Graham had been running from them and was armed. But video surveillance cameras showed that Graham walked up the sidewalk and entered his house. The video then shows cops, who had no warrant, trying to kick the front door down. When that failed, they ran around to the back of the two-story duplex and broke down the door to Graham’s second floor apartment, confronted him in the bathroom, and shot him in the chest in front of his grandmother and 6-year-old brother. Graham had no gun.

Following the shooting, Graham’s grandmother, Patricia Hartley, was taken into custody and held for seven hours at the police station.

On June 13, 2012, after months of protests, Haste was indicted for first- and second-degree manslaughter by a Bronx grand jury.

Among the many speakers at the May 18 protest were Crystal Davis, the sister of Shantel Davis, and Carol Gray, the mother of Kimani Gray.

Shantel Davis, 23, was shot and killed by the police on June 14, 2012. Gray, a 16-year-old high school student, was killed by the police on March 9 of this year. Cops fired 11 shots at him, hitting him seven times, including three in the back. Both killings took place in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn.

“My sister and Kimani Gray were shot by the same task force,” Davis said. “I’m here to fight for Ramarley, to fight

for Shantel and to fight for Kimani. This happens every day, but people are scared to speak out. We need to fight together.”

Over the past year, Constance Malcolm and Frank Graham have joined families of other victims of police brutality. Last August they spoke at a rally in Newburgh, N.Y., to protest the March 7, 2012, killing of Michael Lembhard. In December Malcolm spoke at a memorial tribute for Malik Williams on the first anniversary of his killing by police in Garfield, N.J.

“These protests are important,” Robert James, a construction worker who lives in the area, told the *Militant*. “This could happen to me or my son or someone I know. By throwing out the indictment, they make it seem like the cops have a right to kill us.”

Sheron Whitter was visiting family in the Caribbean island of Jamaica when Graham was killed. “I heard about it on the radio there,” she said. “When I got back home, I started coming to the weekly vigils. I’m tired of them targeting our kids.”

“I got involved right away,” said Rebecca, a high school senior from Westchester, who was in the neighborhood on the day Graham was killed and was signing people up for future actions. “We have stop and frisk in Westchester, too. And they put up ‘no loitering’ signs in the Black and Latino neighborhoods so they always find a reason to stop someone.”

Among the many other speakers at the rally were attorneys Royce Russell and Jeffrey Edmin, who represent Ramarley Graham’s family, and two mayoral candidates in the Nov. 5 city elections — Dan Fein, who is running on the Socialist Workers Party ticket, and John Liu, the current city comptroller, who is running in the Democratic Party primary.

## SWP candidate: ‘Jail cop who killed Ramarley Graham’



Militant/Candace Wagner

NEW YORK — Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor here, speaks at May 18 protest in the Bronx against judge’s decision to throw out manslaughter indictment of cop who shot Ramarley Graham in his apartment in February 2012. “The Socialist Workers Party stands in solidarity with the families of Ramarley Graham, Shantel Davis, Kimani Gray and all other victims of police brutality,” said Fein. “The role of the police is to defend the capitalist system of exploitation and to keep working people intimidated and in our place. That’s what Richard Haste was doing when he shot and killed Ramarley Graham. He belongs behind bars.”

“I was impressed with your comments. I find nothing to support in the other mayoral candidates, including John Liu,” Lisa Johnson, a real estate worker, told Fein after the rally.

—SARA LOBMAN

## Militant Fighting Fund int’l goal raised from \$115,000 to \$118,000

BY LEA SHERMAN

With the initial strong response to the Militant Fighting Fund reflected in local quotas totaling \$117,100 the international goal has been raised from \$115,000 to \$118,000.

Diana Newberry and Frank Forrestal from Minneapolis recently visited workers in the Red River Valley of northeast Minnesota where members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union fought against a lockout by American Crystal Sugar for 20 months before returning to work in April.

During the visits, Newberry and Forrestal collected \$60 for the fund.

Manuel Ramon, who worked for American Crystal Sugar for seven years before the lockout and now works in a metal parts factory, renewed his subscription for six months, picked up a copy of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, and gave \$20 to the fund.

“I like to hear what’s going on and the *Militant* stands for the worker,” he said. “I don’t go for everything in the paper, but I appreciate what it does, its support of workers and unions. Keep up the good work.”

Two other workers who had been part of the fight, Terry Holm and Mike Sinh, kicked in another \$20 each.

“I can help. I have friends coming over to dinner tomorrow and I will try to get contributions from them,” said Miriam Canales, when she learned about the fund. The next day she said she raised \$50. Canales first subscribed to the *Militant* in March when distributors knocked on her door in an Upper Manhattan neighborhood of New York. New York supporters now have 13 new contributors towards their campaign goal of 50.

The annual drive helps cover the pa-

per’s operating expenses and reporting trips to respond to workers’ struggles and international political developments. Every contribution counts.

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

## Miners protest union busting

Continued from front page

and their families from Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and other states, along with members of the Steelworkers, Communications Workers, and Laborers union, and other supporters.

In 2007, Peabody Energy spun off many of its mining operations in West Virginia and Kentucky into Patriot. This included all its union mines east of the Mississippi. A year later Patriot bought Magnum Coal, a company created in 2005 by Arch Coal as a spinoff that included all its union mines.

“This is wrong,” said Bobby Napier, member of UMW Local 2470. He now lives in Oakdale, Ill., and worked in the mines for 31 years. “Every check stub I have is from Peabody. They put the mines into Patriot to take the benefits from us.”

Donna Jo Watkins made the trip from

Montana Mines, W.Va. Her husband worked at the Federal No. 2 mine. “In 2007 he hurt his back and had to retire,” she said. Now the mine is owned by Patriot, so Watkins’ husband is one of the 20,000 retirees who will lose pensions and health care if the company gets its way.

“I’ve been in this union for 15 years. If you don’t stick up for yourself now, it’s hard to fight in the future,” said Jerry Brown, 38, member of UMW Local 1638 at the McElroy Mine in Moundsville, W.Va. Brown came on one of three buses from Fairmont, W.Va.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Kathy Surratt-States gave Patriot permission May 16 to disburse to supervisors, lower executives, and other “key employees” \$6.9 million in bonuses to “prevent attrition,” despite objections from the UMW. The judge will issue her ruling on Patriot’s overall bankruptcy petition by May 29. But the union is determined to continue the fight regardless of her decision.

“With all due respect to the courts, the Supreme Court, to the Congress, to the president of the United States, no one can tell us when this is over,” UMW President Cecil Roberts told the crowd, emphasizing the point that miners “will decide when this is over!”

The union has called the next mobilization for June 4 at 10 a.m. on the steps of the Henderson, Ky., County Courthouse, 20 N. Main St.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

**Coal Miners Fight Union Busting.** Speakers: Joel Britton, Jeff Powers and Gerardo Sánchez, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 1. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

<i>Militant Fighting Fund</i>			
May 4 - June 25 (week 1)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Lincoln	\$200	\$75	38%
Boston	\$3,500	\$1,025	29%
New York	\$20,000	\$4,595	23%
Des Moines	\$2,600	\$367	14%
Atlanta	\$9,000	\$1,134	13%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$800	8%
San Francisco	\$13,500	\$821	6%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$420	5%
Philadelphia	\$4,300	\$115	3%
Houston	\$4,000	\$0	0%
Miami	\$3,000	\$0	0%
Omaha	\$600	\$0	0%
Seattle	\$8,500	\$0	0%
Twin Cities	\$5,500	\$0	0%
Washington	\$7,800	\$0	0%
Total U.S.	\$100,500	\$9,352	9%
CANADA	\$7,000	\$0	0%
NEW ZEALAND	\$5,500	\$3,075	56%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500	\$0	0%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,000	\$0	0%
Manchester	\$600	\$0	0%
Total UK	\$2,600	\$0	0%
Total	\$117,100	\$12,427	11%
Should be	\$118,000	\$16,857	14%



## ON THE PICKET LINE

### Platinum miners strike in South Africa

Walkouts at two platinum mining companies in South Africa last week showed that after experience gained in last year's strike wave, miners won't stop fighting for better wages and work conditions.

Machine operators and maintenance workers began a sit-in May 14 at Anglo American Platinum's Tumela Mine in Limpopo. Some 169 workers are staying underground while more than 300 are sitting in above ground.

"The workers are not happy that underground workers don't get the production bonuses," a double drum operator, who is a shop steward with the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Unions, said in a phone interview May 16.

Thousands of miners also halted production at Lonmin Platinum's 13 shafts in Marikana May 14-15 in a dispute over union rights and representation, but went back to work at the urging of AMCU President Joseph Mathunjwa. The Marikana miners sparked a strike wave last September that at its high point involved more than 100,000 platinum, gold, silver and coal miners across the country. After five weeks on strike the Lonmin miners won a 22 percent wage increase.

Meanwhile, workers at Anglo American Platinum's complex in Rustenburg are considering going on strike if the company moves ahead with plans to lay off some 6,000 of the 45,000 workers there. "They are saying they will close down some shafts," miner Gaddafi Mdoda said by phone. Anglo American did not return requests for comment.

Until last year most miners belonged to the National Union of Mineworkers, which is affiliated with the ruling African National Congress party. But after NUM officials repeatedly condemned the strikes and violence-baited strikers following the cops' massacre of 34 Lonmin miners last August, many miners joined AMCU, which now organizes the overwhelming majority in the platinum belt. AMCU was formed in a split from the NUM in 1998.

"You don't just wake up one morning and say there is an issue with the bonuses and go on strike," NUM spokesperson Lesiba Seshoka said in a May 16 phone interview, referring to the Tumela Mine strike. "There are procedures."

"South African miners are among the lowest paid in the world," Mathunjwa told the *Militant*. "There needs to be a serious engagement with management."

—Seth Galinsky

### 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*

### Australia port workers protest nonunion hiring

NEWCASTLE, Australia — Some 225 workers at two coal loading terminals here stopped work for four hours May 15 to attend a union meeting to discuss stalled contract negotiations with Port Waratah Coal Services.

The British-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto, now the major owner of PWCS, is pressing anti-union demands that include expanded hiring of nonunion labor.

Australia is the largest coal exporter in the world and Newcastle, a hundred miles north of Sydney, is one of the main coal export ports.

Previous agreements had been negotiated in "a couple of months," said Dennis Outram, a representative of the Maritime Union of Australia and chair of the Single Bargaining Unit, which represents the four main unions involved.

Ben Newman, a maintenance worker at Port Waratah for 13 years and Australian Manufacturing Workers Union delegate on the Single Bargaining Unit, said contract negotiations had dragged on since last July. Previously contract workers could only be hired for short-term projects and the unions had some say, he explained.

Now the company is demanding "total flexibility" in the hiring of contract labor, a greater say in work rosters and "the final word" in most disputes instead of the arbitration process, Newman said.

According to Glen Williams, Newcastle secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, the company has tripled productivity in recent years.

Port Waratah announced May 2 that it was shelving plans for a massive new coal-loader as the downturn in the coal industry has delayed projected export increases.

—Joanne Kuniansky



Coal loaders in Newcastle, Australia, stopped work May 15 to attend union meeting on contract dispute.

### Washington Machinists reject bosses' offer, continue strike

AUBURN, Wash. — Members of Machinists Local 79 on strike at Belshaw Adamatic since March 25 voted May 10 to reject 49-0 a proposed agreement by the company. Workers walked off the job at the bakery equipment manufacturer here over the bosses' demands to make changes to the health care plan during the life of the contract and to hire nonunion contract labor and temporary workers, as well as wage and pension issues.

Chief shop steward Clifton LaPlant, said May 13 the company presented the union with a letter saying it would take back one-third of the strikers now. Replacement workers would continue to fill-in for the other two-thirds, who could be called back according to company needs.

"If we accepted that, the ones going in would train the replacement workers and we would never get back," LaPlant said. "Our view is 63 went out; all 63 go back with an agreement." The company said the 18 strikers that can return would not be entitled to unemployment if they stayed out on strike. "No one voted to accept this offer and I am proud to say that

we did not let the company divide us," LaPlant said.

"The list they presented of who could return and who could not was a real threat," said Louis Saldanha, who has worked at the plant for more than eight years. "I am glad that even those who could return voted unanimously to reject this offer."

"We're out here fighting company greed just like others around the country," said Rick Bekkedahl, who was hired by Belshaw Adamatic about nine months ago.

"I am just happy to see that we are united and not letting the company divide us," said Chanh Saetern, who has worked at the plant for 14 years.

Belshaw Adamatic did not respond to requests for comment from the *Militant*.

—Edwin Fruit



Machinists picket Belshaw Adamatic in Auburn, Wash., May 6.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 3, 1988

Huge student-led protests have gripped South Korea, with a growing focus on demands for the reunification of North and South Korea. U.S. intervention in South Korea is being denounced, and the withdrawal of U.S. troops demanded.

Two developments triggered the protests. One was the May 21 anniversary of a 1980 uprising in the city of Kwangju. With the approval of the U.S. military command, 8,000 Korean troops were dispatched to Kwangju to crush the rebellion. They slaughtered 2,000 people.

The protests were further galvanized by the suicide of a student. Cho Sung Man, 24, killed himself May 16. In a note he demanded the release of political prisoners and the reunification of Korea. He denounced Washington's role in the country.

The centrality of Washington's role in South Korea is symbolized by the 43,000 U.S. troops garrisoned there.



June 3, 1963

In the midst of world protest over conditions in Birmingham, Washington — through its ventriloquist's dummy, the Organization of American States — has accused Cuba of maltreatment of political prisoners. Significantly, neither the International Red Cross nor the Swiss Embassy, which represents U.S. interests in Cuba, has supported these charges.

Carlos Lechuga, Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations, on May 24 indignantly denounced the OAS charges and accused it of "keeping a pious silence over the events in Birmingham, Ala."

Lechuga finds "astonishing" the manner in which the OAS overlooks the trampling of human rights and flagrant police brutality in Birmingham. In his statement he accused the OAS advisory body responsible for the recent red-herring report on Cuban prisons, of being blind to the use of dogs and firehoses against Negroes in the South.



June 4, 1938

AKRON, Ohio — The turbulent Goodyear strike ended last Tuesday when the workers accepted a company compromise proposal which granted some of the demands for which the strikers fought in the face of brutal violence by police and company guards.

Although many union progressives were dissatisfied with the accord because of its inferiority to the Firestone and Goodrich contracts, it was endorsed because it offered the union a breathing spell in which to build up its strength.

The real showdown was postponed and the workers have a chance to put themselves in a better position to prevent any repetition of the police brutality which sent more than 100 workers to the hospital and teargassed hundreds of others.

The Akron labor movement emerged more solidified than before thanks to the remarkable achievement of C.I.O. and A.F. of L. unity.



# Impact of Syria civil war on toilers, region widens

BY SUSAN LAMONT

As the civil war in Syria enters its third year, the conflict between the armed forces of President Bashar al-Assad's battered regime and those of the disparate bourgeois opposition is taking a mounting toll on working people, with ramifications spreading beyond the imperialist-drawn borders of that fracturing country.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military is acting to put a brake on Tehran's stepped-up arming of Hezbollah, an Islamist organization with direct ties to the Iranian government and allied with the Assad regime. While backing Tel Aviv's military moves, the Barack Obama administration continues to focus on avoiding U.S. military involvement, rejecting both direct arming and training of opposition groups or the imposition of a no-fly zone.

In a country of some 22 million people, more than 70,000 have been killed since the Syrian civil war began in March 2011. Several million people have been displaced, with thousands more fleeing the conflict each week by crossing into the neighboring countries of Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq.

According to U.N. figures, at least 1 million Syrians have entered Lebanon, a small country of 4 million people on Syria's southwestern border. Some 10,000 Syrian Kurds are living in camps provided in northern Iraq by the Kurdish Regional Government, which heads the autonomous Kurdish region of that country.

In early May Israeli jets carried out airstrikes in southern Syria to destroy missile shipments in transit from Iran to Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon and against a military research complex reportedly linked to Syria's chemical and biological weapons program.

Tel Aviv's policy in relation to the Syrian civil war is guided by its view of Iran as its foremost enemy state in the region, not because it is bent on overthrowing Assad.

The Israeli rulers have always viewed Iranian influence in Syria through its Hezbollah proxy as a major problem. At the same time Tel Aviv has for decades been able to count on a relatively stable Assad regime to maintain the status quo in the region by playing a treacherous role against the Palestinian struggle for liberation and helping ensure Israel's quietest and most secure border, buffered by the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

Syrian and Israeli forces exchanged fire across the Golan Heights border

May 21 for the first time since the war started, prompting warnings from Tel Aviv, which is concerned with preventing the conflict from spilling over its borders and, above all, with preventing Assad's chemical weapons and other arms from falling into either the hands of his Hezbollah allies or other anti-Israeli enemies.

### Obama's 'red-line' bluffs

Statements and actions on Syria by the Obama administration have to date been marked by its overriding goal of avoiding or extracting itself from any substantial, direct military engagement — as it has done from Afghanistan and Iraq to Libya.

The U.S. president has stated on several occasions that use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime would be a "game changer" and a "red line" that would trigger a response by



Washington. The "red line" threshold proved to be a bluff, however, after it was widely reported that people in an area near Damascus were sickened and some killed by a release of deadly sarin

gas in late April. Obama's response was that the attack would have to be confirmed by a U.N. investigation.

In this context, Israeli strikes both  
**Continued on page 7**

## White House targets political opponents, reporters

### Continued from front page

Republican candidates for audits and investigation.

At the same time, the Justice Department admits opening far-reaching wiretapping and spy operations against The Associated Press and other reporters. The aim, department officials claim, was to stop leaks to the press from government employees.

On May 19 the *Washington Post* reported that the Justice Department had seized phone and personal email records from Fox News reporter James Rosen in a probe related to the arrest of a former government contractor charged with leaking an intelligence report to Rosen.

To get a secret warrant to grab the records, the FBI submitted an affidavit threatening that by seeking the leaked information — seemingly the jobs of a reporter — Rosen was an "aider, abettor and/or co-conspirator" in violating national security.

### IRS targets Tea Party groups

Lois Lerner, IRS director of exempt organizations, publicly apologized May 10 for "inappropriate" actions in its probes aimed at conservative groups. The agency was "sorry," she said, adding that these operations were "absolutely not" influenced by the Obama administration.

Hundreds of groups, initially many local Tea Party organizations, were targeted when they applied for tax-exempt status to carry out "social welfare" activity. Such groups are allowed to engage in political activity, including opposing candidates and attacking their stands on issues, and are not covered by Federal Election Commission requirements to disclose contributors' names. Some 44,000 groups have this status, from the Barack H. Obama Foundation to the National Rifle Association.

Beginning in 2010, IRS agents started singling out applicants by computer searches for key words such as "Tea Party" or "patriot" — then for groups criticizing "big government," "how the country is being run," or Obamacare. Still later, those mentioning "government spending, government debt, taxes" were added.

Applications were held up for months — over a year in some cases — while

being "reviewed." The IRS demanded "donor rolls, membership lists, data on all contributions, names of volunteers, the contents of all speeches made by members, Facebook posts, minutes of all meetings, and copies of all materials handed out at gatherings," the *Wall Street Journal* reported May 18.

Backers of the White House and pro-disclosure organizations — called "good government" groups or election "watchdogs" by the liberal media — have been pressing the IRS to probe groups using their "social welfare" status to attack the Obama administration.

Obama himself joined the chorus. "All around the country there are groups with harmless-sounding names like Americans for Prosperity, who are running millions of dollars of ads against Democratic candidates," he told a Democratic National Committee fundraiser in 2010. "And they don't have to say who exactly the Americans for Prosperity are." Nobody knows if it's "foreign-controlled," money, the president said.

In fact, it is widely known that Americans for Prosperity is associated with Charles and David Koch, politically conservative brothers who share a combined wealth of \$50 billion.

The IRS also ordered special audits of some opponents of administration policies. After being highlighted on an Obama campaign website in April 2012, Idaho businessman and longtime Republican donor Frank VanderSloot was informed that the IRS was auditing two years of his tax returns. The Department of Labor audited "guest workers" on his ranch. Then the IRS looked into one of his businesses. None of these audits led to fines or penalties, but VanderSloot ran up \$80,000 in legal bills.

Over the last 80 years, successive presidents have used the IRS to harass opponents of their policies. Franklin Roosevelt's IRS targeted politicians and media that opposed the New Deal. John Kennedy set up an Ideological Organizations Audit Project to target groups like the American Enterprise Institute. And Richard Nixon used the IRS to go after his "enemies list."

But the Obama administration has accelerated the trend toward use of ex-

ecutive power. His presidency is based on the conviction, shared by other meritocrats inside and outside government, that their "smarts" (validated by comfortable upper middle-class and professional incomes) make them uniquely qualified to decide what should be done to and for ordinary folk.

Liberal backers of the Obama administration, and their hangers-on among middle-class radicals, have risen to defend the IRS inquisition, arguing that disclosure trumps the rights of these groups.

The *Peoples World*, the online newspaper that speaks for the Communist Party USA, said that if Tea Party groups or others "had disclosed the names of their donors and conducted all their other business out in the open, where election business is supposed to be conducted, and if overtly political groups stopped masquerading as 'social welfare' groups, the IRS would have no business looking at them at all."

### AP phone records seized

The U.S. Department of Justice informed Associated Press May 10 that federal investigators had seized AP phone logs from April and May 2012. The records were from cell, office and home phones of reporters; an editor; and AP general office numbers in Washington, D.C., New York, Hartford, Conn.; and others — some 100 AP employees in all.

The Justice Department said the records were seized as part of a criminal probe into leaks by officials about a CIA operation that reportedly foiled an al-Qaeda plot to detonate a bomb on a U.S.-bound airliner. AP published a story about the plot in May 2012 after holding up publication for several days at White House request.

AP President Gary Pruitt said May 19 on TV program "Face the Nation" that if the administration can carry out such sweeping wiretaps, it will intimidate people from talking to the press. "The people of the United States will only know what the government wants them to know," he said.

In addition to the AP and Fox News snooping, the Justice Department says it is also carrying out an investigation into leaks to the *New York Times*.



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# Cambodia garment workers

**Continued from front page**

Phnom Penh at the Taiwanese-owned Wing Star Shoes, which employs 7,000 workers and produces shoes for Asics. A mezzanine used for storage collapsed under weight it wasn't designed to bear. Three workers were killed and 11 injured, although 50 were caught in the wreckage.

Yarn Neat, an assistant stock manager, told the *Wall Street Journal* that the floor had started shaking when she helped load materials into the mezzanine a week earlier and that she was afraid to walk under it. She had raised her concerns with superiors, who did nothing.

In March workers at Wing Star Shoes stopped work and blocked the main road for one hour, protesting low wages and dangerous working conditions.

Another 23 workers were injured during lunch May 20 as the shoddy building that housed the break room at Hong Kong-based Top World factory in Phnom Penh collapsed into a lake. The company produces for Swedish fashion giant H&M.

"Wages and health and safety are the most important issues for workers here," Sokny said. "The working conditions are so bad that workers often faint on the shop floor because of heat, lack of ventilation, malnutrition, chemical exposure and long workdays."

In January the Labor Ministry reported that more than 1,600 workers fainted at some 20 factories last year. The announcement came after the Free Trade Union gave the figure of 2,107 workers at 29 factories.

Strikes and other actions demanding wage raises and improved conditions are numerous. According to the FTU, some 85,000 workers at 101 factories were involved in strikes and other actions last year.

"It's the only powerful tool we have," Sokny explains. "We strike and do actions all the time. That's the only way we can win anything."

In December the Kingsland factory, which produces underwear for Walmart and H&M, closed and laid off workers without paying wages and severance. Starting Jan. 3 as many as 200 work-

ers camped outside the plant in Phnom Penh to stop the company from moving machinery and other assets before workers were fully paid. On Feb. 27, 82 of the workers launched a hunger strike. Two days later Walmart and H&M agreed to a \$200,000 settlement.

"We decided to go on a hunger strike to show that we are not workers who can be pushed around," 26-year-old Sorn Sothy, a leader of the action, told Warehouse Workers United March 1. "We are strong, committed and united."

On May Day garment workers marched to demand a raise in the monthly minimum wage from \$80 to \$150. The level is set by a Labor Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from the government, employers and unions.

"It's supposed to implement a raise every fourth year," Sokny said. "But nothing happens unless workers go into action with strikes and other protests. That's how we won the raise to \$80 in March. We need a bigger raise. Workers are hungry. The wages are not enough to pay rent, food and what your family needs."

On March 28 Prime Minister Hun Sen issued an instruction that workers must stop striking and protesting. But they have continued, including in two actions that demanded reinstatement of



Heather Stilwell

**Garment workers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, celebrate. After camping three months outside Kingsland factory and conducting hunger strike, Walmart and H&M agreed March 1 to pay severance and back wages. "We are not workers who can be pushed around," said Sorn Sothy.**

workers' representatives fired by bosses. In one instance some 100 workers gathered outside a provincial police station, demanding the release of seven workers accused of inciting others to protest.

Sokny said the challenge is to win more long-term improvements in wages and working conditions. The vast majority of workers are on short-term contracts, mostly three months. Those who the bosses see as leaders or "trouble-makers" don't get new contracts. New workers are often brought in with con-

tracts that reverse previously won gains.

Until the mid-1990s Cambodia had no garment industry. After an explosive development during the last two decades, the industry now employs 500,000 in more than 500 garment and shoe factories, with an average size of 1,000 workers. More than 90 percent moving into newly created industrial production centers are women from rural villages.

The garment sector accounts for 90 percent of Cambodia's export income.

## Impact of Syria civil war on toilers, region widens

**Continued from page 6**

serve to weaken a common foe and take some of the internal and external bourgeois pressure off Washington to get more involved. Nevertheless the debate over administration policy continues to heat up.

U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona and others in Congress are calling on Obama to do more to train opposition forces and to use "precision strike capabilities" to target Assad's aircraft and missiles on the ground. Senate Democrats Robert Menendez, Robert Casey and others are also challenging White House policy.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has joined calls for a

U.S.-enforced "no-fly zone" in Syria as thousands of Syrian refugees pour into Turkey and the conflict spills across its borders. On May 11, nearly 50 people were killed by two car bombs in Reyhanli, Turkey, near the border with Syria. The following day nine Turkish citizens said to be supporters of Assad were arrested in the attacks.

Secretary of State John Kerry reported in early May that Russia had agreed to hold an international conference involving both sides in the Syrian conflict to take place in June in Geneva — a move that suggests both Moscow and the Obama administration see advantages in further stalling for now.

The civil war grew out of bloody

repression against spreading anti-government protests that began in early 2011, following popular movements for democratic rights in the region from Tunisia to Egypt.

Opposition forces — which increasingly include Islamist al-Qaeda groups — have made substantial gains since the war began and won control of major areas in the north and east of the country.

The Free Syrian Army, the military wing of the main opposition coalition fighting to bring down Assad, gets arms from the regimes in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, with some aid from Washington. "By overseeing the arming of the rebels, the United States ... hopes to strengthen the more nationalist secular groups to counterbalance the growth of extremist groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra," according to an April 19 article on Stratfor's website. Jabhat al-Nusra, formed in early 2012, is an Islamist militia that recently declared its allegiance to al-Qaeda and is reportedly the fastest growing opposition group in Syria.

The oppressed Kurdish population, concentrated in Syria's northeast along the border with Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan, has been making gains of its own, with Kurdish militias in control of some areas and concessions from the Assad government that include language rights.

The Assad regime is based on a narrow layer of capitalist families, most from the Alawite Muslim minority, a branch of Shia Islam representing about 12 percent of the population. However weakened and isolated, the heavily armed Assad government is not defeated and in recent weeks has made gains in attempting to retake a few areas. On May 19, government forces, using airstrikes and artillery, were reported to have made progress in retaking the city of Qusayr, near the Lebanon border, with the help of Hezbollah fighters.

## Fight brewing over safety, conditions in Utah mines

**BY ELEANOR GARCÍA AND JOEL BRITTON**

HUNTINGTON, Utah — Coal miners and power plant workers here face a brewing fight over safety and job conditions won through previous struggles with the bosses at Deer Creek Mine and the adjacent PacifiCorp power plant, both owned by Berkshire Hathaway Company. United Mine Workers of America locals 1769 and 2176, which represent some 300 coal miners at Deer Creek, have been working under an expired contract since January. Members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 57 who work at the power plant recently voted down for the second time this year a company-proposed concession agreement.

Among the biggest concerns for miners at Deer Creek is the bosses' moves to gut the union's safety committee by reducing its size from 14 union-elected members to three individuals hand-picked by the company. Distributors of the *Militant* who spoke to miners during a recent trip to Utah were told repeatedly, "we don't want more Crandall

Canyons." In 2007, nine miners and rescuers were killed in a gigantic collapse at that nonunion mine just a few miles up the road from Deer Creek.

Ralph Keele, chairman of the union safety committee, was fired March 7 after tagging out unsafe equipment at the Deer Creek mine. A second miner, Gordon Manchester, was also fired that day. Manchester and Keele are fighting to win their jobs back, drawing public attention to the company's retaliation tactics.

"If there's something in the contract that benefits the company, they go by the contract. If there's something that benefits the union, then there is no contract," explained one Deer Creek miner, who asked not to be identified for this article. The company has been stockpiling mounds of coal in preparation for a possible strike by the union, he said.

Deer Creek miners and supporters have been organizing protests to draw attention to their fight. Earlier in May dozens rallied in Des Moines, Iowa, outside the headquarters of

MidAmerican Energy, the parent company of PacifiCorp, and May 4 outside the Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting in Omaha, Neb.

Safety concerns are particularly pressing on miners here following the latest coal mine death in the area. Elam Jones, a 29-year-old miner at Rhino Resource Partners near Huntington, formerly the Co-Op mine, was killed in a roof fall in March.

Mitchell Hadden, an unemployed miner in Price, told the *Militant* that poor safety conditions in the nonunion mines is a threat to all miners. He noted that Jones was on the rescue crew during the disaster at the Crandall Canyon Mine in 2007. "Jones left Crandall Canyon to work at Consol's union mine, near Emery until it shut down in 2010," Hadden said. "When it shut down Jones went to the nonunion Rhino mine."

"Conditions are deteriorating because of the lack of union mines and the safety committees that go with them," Hadden added. "Miners don't get good representation in these nonunion outfits."



# Havana int'l youth conference discusses fight to free Cuban 5

BY JACOB PERASSO

AND REBECCA WILLIAMSON

HAVANA — Delegates from 20 countries across the Americas, Europe, Africa and the Middle East gathered here April 29-May 1 for the Fourth International Youth Meeting in Solidarity with the Five Cuban Heroes. They came to discuss how to advance the international campaign to free the Cuban Five, as they are known around the world.

In his remarks to the conference Cuban Communist Party Political Bureau member Ricardo Alarcón emphasized “the worldwide struggle and solidarity with this noble cause — what Gerardo [Hernández] has called the ‘jury of millions.’” We must create the conditions, Alarcón said, that will oblige the U.S. government to release the Five. He noted that “there is more receptivity to the case today among young people in the United States.”

Alarcón opened his talk by paying homage to Carlos Muñiz Varela, “a fighter in defense of Puerto Rican independence and the sovereignty of his Cuban homeland,” pointing out that the conference coincided with the 34th anniversary of Muñiz’s murder on April 28, 1979.

Muñiz was a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, which organized young Cubans in the U.S. and Puerto Rico to

demand the U.S. normalize relations with Cuba. No one has ever been arrested or charged with his murder. A year and a half ago, in November 2011, the FBI released heavily redacted documents that point to a U.S. government cover-up of Muñiz’s murder and relations between U.S. intelligence agencies and CORU, an umbrella organization of counterrevolutionary Cuban exile groups that is widely believed to have been responsible for Muñiz’s killing. A fight is now being waged to get further documents released.

The Cuban Five were gathering information on such armed groups functioning today on U.S. soil in order to prevent the same kind of murderous acts from being repeated.

In both the case of the Five and the assassination of Carlos Muñiz, Alarcón said, “the so-called news media and press have hidden the truth.”

Laura Labañino Palmeiro, daughter of Ramón Labañino, was among the featured panelists. She described the long delays and other obstacles U.S. government officials create to try to break down the prisoners and family members who come to visit them.

“We must appeal to international solidarity, get to the heart of the United States, and reach the news media so the international strength of solidarity is able to free these five men,” Labañino



Militant photos by Jacob Perasso

Top, Ricardo Alarcón, member of Cuban Communist Party’s Political Bureau, speaks April 30 at International Youth Meeting in Solidarity with the Five Cuban Heroes held at National Cadre School of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) in Havana. Seated from left, UJC Director of International Relations José Angel Maury de Toro and UJC First Secretary Yuniasky Crespo Baquero. Inset, Laura Labañino Palmeiro, daughter of Ramón Labañino, speaks on conference panel April 29.

said. “The Five continue to stay strong and live with great dignity.”

“Taking this fight to the working class is key,” commented Hugo Wils, from the Young Socialists in the United Kingdom, during the discussion period following the opening presentations. “Millions of working people can identify with what the Five and their families have been through,” he noted.

“Fighting to free the Cuban Five will be a central theme of the coming World Festival of Youth and Students,” reported Dimitris Palmyris, president of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, at the closing event.

The youth festival, set to take place Dec. 7-13 this year in Quito, Ecuador, will draw thousands of youth from around the world under the banner of the struggle against imperialism. A statement adopted by delegates at an international preparatory meeting for the festival held recently in Pretoria, South Africa, noted that “the frame-up trial, draconian sentences, and other extraordinary punishments imposed on the Five are aimed at punishing the people of Cuba for making and defending their socialist revolution in face of decades of aggression from Washington and its allies.”

One of the panels featured former Cuban State Security agents Frank Vargas and Raúl Capote, who penetrated and exposed CIA operations intended to buy off artists and professors and recruit them to imperialist-orchestrated counterrevolutionary activity in Cuba.

“I was asked by the CIA to convince young artists that if Cuba was a so-called free country they could be famous and make a lot of money,” explained Vargas.

“The CIA told me they would make me a famous writer and give me \$10,000 if I helped them to recruit people against the revolution.”

Anyone who does this kind of work in defense of Cuba’s sovereignty could have ended up in the same position as the Cuban Five today, said Vargas.

Various workshops over the course of the conference discussed different aspects of the campaign to free the Five. Dozens of Cuban delegates, many of them teachers from provinces across the island, talked about activities they are organizing in their communities.

## ‘5 Days for Cuban 5’

At a workshop titled “Breaking the Wall of Silence” delegates discussed the importance of building participation in the “5 Days for the Cuban 5” activities in Washington, D.C., May 30-June 5 — in particular the June 1 demonstration in front of the White House. (See ad on page 11.)

Coinciding with the “5 Days for the 5” activities in Washington, protests in front of U.S. embassies and other actions are being organized in cities around the world.

During another workshop on art, Carlos Lara, a coordinator of youth activities for the municipality of Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico, proposed a series of expositions of the artwork by the Five be organized around Latin America. Delegates agreed to get started on the project upon returning to their countries.

Dozens of copies of the Spanish version of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They*

Continued on page 11



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Conference delegates from Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua and the U.S. exchange experiences and discuss how to advance fight to free Cuban Five in their respective countries at Americas Regional workshop, April 29.

## 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. His wife, Adriana Pérez, is barred from entering the United States.

All but René González remain in prison. In October 2011 he began serving a three-year “supervised release.” On the pretext of his dual citizenship, his request to return to Cuba had been denied until May 3, when Judge Joan Lenard finally agreed that if González renounced his U.S. citizenship, he could stay in Cuba.

## Gerardo Hernández cartoon exhibit opens in New Zealand

PALMERSTON NORTH, New Zealand — May 1, International Workers Day, was celebrated here with the opening of an exhibit of political cartoons by Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban Five.

“The Five do not act like victims,” Manuel Sánchez Oliva, the Cuban Embassy’s counselor, told the 40 people present. “They act like the proletarian internationalists they are, as revolutionary combatants who take their places on the front lines of battle.”

The exhibit at Community Arts gallery was initiated by Dion Martin, an organizer for the FIRST Union and coordinator of the Manawatu May Day Coalition. On May 4 the coalition held its annual May Day Concert, attended by more than 400 people, where one of the songs was dedicated to the Five. Concert-goers were able to pick up information about the cartoon exhibit and eight bought copies of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*.

—JANET ROTH



# Victory in disclosure fight strengthens workers' ability to organize independent working-class political action

‘Injury to one is injury to all’ guides Socialist Workers Party in battles against government attacks

BY JOHN STUDER

In 2009 Lisa Potash, a garment worker for FellFab Corp., was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta. After the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* ran an opinion column slamming the SWP campaign, the paper printed a letter to the editor by Potash headlined, “Socialists back workers.”

“Our campaign,” the socialist candidate wrote, “explains the working class worldwide is facing an increasingly devastating crisis of capitalism.” As part of organizing to resist the consequences of this crisis, working people must fight together for “a federally funded crash program to put millions to work at union scale building schools, hospitals, roads, bridges and public transportation.”

Not long after that, Potash found herself pounding the pavement looking for another job.

Potash wrote up the political firing, and the Socialist Workers Party last October submitted her signed declaration to the Federal Election Commission in support of extending the SWP’s exemption from having to turn over names of campaign contributors to the government for public disclosure. In doing so, she joined some 70 other campaign supporters, *Militant* readers and defenders of democratic rights who also sent in reports over the past four years of firings, physical threats, government spying and harassment by cops and rightist thugs.

Despite indications from the FEC that it was weighing curtailing or even rejecting the party’s exemption, on April

25 the FEC voted 4-1 in favor of the SWP’s request, adopting another four-year extension.

In articles in the last three issues, we’ve described what it is about the Socialist Workers Party and its ongoing record as a revolutionary workers party in labor and political struggles that made it possible to turn back this probe by the capitalist government to further erode political rights. This victory, unique in recent years, strengthens workers’ ability to carry out working-class political activity free from cop or right-wing disruption.

We’ve also recounted how the FBI was forged over decades as the rulers’ political police to spy on, harass, and attack the working class and its vanguard.

In the late 1930s, as the U.S. capitalists prepared to drag workers and farmers into the bloodbath of World War II, the Democratic administration of Franklin Roosevelt issued secret executive orders to single out militants in the industrial union movement organizing anti-war opposition in the working class. In 1941 the government used the recently enacted thought-control Smith Act to railroad to prison 18 leaders of



Lisa Potash, Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate in Atlanta, at Martin Luther King Day parade, January 2009. After letter from Potash appeared in *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, bosses at garment factory fired her.

the SWP and class-struggle Teamsters union leadership in the Midwest. The charge was “conspiracy to advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government.”

In 1945, coming out of the war, a strike wave rolled across the U.S. Struggles for national independence spread throughout Asia, Africa and elsewhere. U.S. troops stationed in the Pacific organized actions of tens of thousands demanding to be brought home rather than sent to suppress anticolonial uprisings. African-Americans at home demanded an end to Jim Crow segregation.

The rulers responded by enacting and wielding “loyalty” programs and other witch-hunt measures to try to isolate labor militants, housebreak the unions and victimize communist workers.

In face of these attacks, the SWP in 1948 fielded its first national election campaign, running Farrell Dobbs for president and Grace Carlson for vice president. Dobbs was one of the leaders of the Midwest Teamsters and SWP imprisoned during the war. To cite just one example of the hearing the socialists received, when Dobbs spoke at the SWP’s state convention in Hartford, Conn., his talk was broadcast live over seven radio stations. The SWP has run a presidential ticket in every election since.

Washington’s “national security” measures enacted during this period included the March 1948 announcement of an Attorney General’s list of “subversive” organizations. The list included the Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party and nearly 200 others.

On behalf of the SWP, Dobbs wrote President Harry Truman demanding “that he tear up his infamous blacklist.” Dobbs denounced it “as an attempt to intimidate and victimize” opponents of the government, the *Militant* said. The list was an assault on constitutional rights — of the SWP, every group on it, and the working class — and should be abolished.

In July 1948 the government also indicted 12 Communist Party leaders under the Smith Act provisions it had used seven years earlier against Teamster

and SWP leaders. “Dobbs Denounces Smith-Act Arrests,” said the *Militant* in a front-page headline.

The next week, in the same issue reporting the SWP’s demand to abolish the Attorney General’s list, the *Militant* featured a letter from Dobbs to the Communist Party denouncing the Smith Act as a weapon of the capitalist rulers “whose barb is aimed at the working class political and trade union movement.” Pledging SWP support to defense of the CP leaders, Dobbs said, “Only the solidarity of the whole labor movement, and of all tendencies within it, can defeat the Smith Act which threatens all sections of labor.”

In 1949 Dobbs covered the trial of the CP leaders for the *Militant* from the courtroom in New York’s Foley Square. Eleven were convicted and sentenced to prison, most for five years.

(As part of the Communist Party’s all-out support to Washington’s war effort in World War II, the CP not only refused to defend the SWP and Teamster leaders, but submitted a “dossier” to the attorney general in 1941 to assist the prosecution. The CP leadership has never disavowed this betrayal of the working-class principle that “an injury to one is an injury to all.” Its longtime general counsel John Abt, himself a CP cadre, did so, however, in a 1993 memoir. Abt said it wasn’t until the CP leaders were indicted that he read the 1941 trial record “and saw that the cases against the two organizations were virtually identical. The Communists had made a terrible mistake in not defending the SWP.”)

In 1948 the U.S. government fired James Kutcher from his job with the Veterans Administration for “disloyal-  
Continued on page 11



Top, Aug. 30, 1948, *Militant* features nationwide campaign to defend World War II veteran James Kutcher who government fired for his communist views, and demand by SWP that President Harry Truman tear up Attorney General’s list of “subversive” organizations. Bottom, July 12 issue reports launching of party’s presidential ticket over nationwide radio hookup.

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# Trotsky on need for a united front defense against fascism

*Below is an excerpt from The Struggle against Fascism in Germany, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. The piece is from "The United Front for Defense: A Letter to a Social Democratic Worker" written by Leon Trotsky in February 1933, less than a month after Adolph Hitler was appointed chancellor of the German government. For several years, Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian Revolution, urged a united front of the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party of Germany to prevent the Nazis from taking political power. But the leaders of the two mass workers parties refused. Copyright © 1971 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

This pamphlet addresses itself to the Social Democratic workers, even though personally the author belongs to another party. The disagreements between Communism and Social Democracy run very deep. I consider them irreconcilable. Nevertheless, the course of events frequently puts tasks before the working class which imperatively demand the joint action of the two parties. Is such an action possible? Perfectly possible, as historical experience and theory attest: every-



Nazi Storm Troopers march on Communist Party headquarters in Berlin, January 1933. In 1930 Trotsky called for Communist Party and Social Democratic Party, the two mass workers parties in Germany, to form united front against Nazis, their common enemy.

thing depends upon the conditions and the character of the said tasks. Now, it is much easier to engage in a joint action when the question before the proletariat is not one of taking the offensive for the attainment of new objectives, but of defending the positions already gained.

That is how the question is posed in Germany. The German proletariat is in a situation where it is retreating and giving up its positions. To be sure, there is no lack of windbags to cry that we are allegedly in the presence of a revolutionary offensive. These are people who obviously do not know how to distinguish their right from their left. There is no doubt that the hour of the offensive will strike. But today the problem is to arrest the disorderly retreat and to proceed to the regrouping of the forces for the defensive. In politics as in the military art, to understand a problem clearly is to facilitate its solution. To get intoxicated by phrases is to help the adversary. ...

The aim of capital and of the land-owning caste is clear: to crush the organizations of the proletariat, to strip them of the possibility not only of taking the offensive but also of defending themselves. As can be seen, twenty years of collaboration of the Social Democracy with the bourgeoisie have not softened by one iota the

hearts of the capitalists. These individuals acknowledge but one law: the struggle for profit. And they conduct this struggle with a fierce and implacable determination, stopping at nothing and still less at their own laws. ...

The bourgeoisie enjoys full freedom of maneuver, that is, the choice of means, of time, and of place. Its chiefs combine the arms of the law with the arms of banditry. The proletariat combines nothing at all and does not defend itself. Its troops are split up, and its chiefs discourse languidly on whether or not it is at all possible to combine forces. Therein lies the essence of the interminable discussions on the united front. If the vanguard workers do not become conscious of the situation and do not intervene preemptorily in the debate, the German proletariat may find itself crucified for years on the cross of fascism.

It may be that here my Social Democratic interlocutor interrupts me and says, "Don't you come too late to propagate the united front? What did you do before this?"

This objection would not be correct. This is not the first time that the question of a united front of defense against fascism is raised. I permit myself to refer to what I had the occasion to say on this subject in September 1930, after the first great

success of the National Socialists. Addressing myself to the Communist workers, I wrote:

"The Communist Party must call for the defense of those material and moral positions which the working class has managed to win in the German state. This most directly concerns the fate of the workers' political organizations, trade unions, newspapers, printing plants, clubs, libraries, etc. Communist workers must say to their Social Democratic counterparts: 'The policies of our parties are irreconcilably opposed; but if the fascists come tonight to wreck your organization's hall, we will come running, arms in hand, to help you. Will you promise us that if our organization is threatened you will rush to our aid?' This is the quintessence of our policy in the present period. All agitation must be pitched in this key.

"The more persistently, seriously, and thoughtfully ... we carry on this agitation, the more we propose serious measures for defense in every factory, in every working-class neighborhood and district, the less the danger that a fascist attack will take us by surprise, and the greater the certainty that such an attack will cement, rather than break apart, the ranks of the workers."

The pamphlet from which I take this extract was written two and a half years ago. There is not the slightest doubt today that if this policy had been adopted in time, Hitler would not be Chancellor at the present time and the positions of the German proletariat would be unassailable. But one cannot return to the past. As a result of the mistakes which were committed and the time which was allowed to pass, the problem of defense is posed today with infinitely greater difficulty: but the task remains just as before. Even right now it is possible to alter the relation of forces in favor of the proletariat. Towards this end, one must have a plan, a system, a combination of forces for the defense. But above all, one must have the will to defend himself. I hasten to add that he alone defends himself well who does not confine himself to the defensive but who, at the first occasion, is determined to pass over to the offensive.

May BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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The Militant June 3, 2013



# Defend campaign disclosure victory!

The *Militant* calls on readers to write up incidents of harassment, threats or attacks on those helping win new readers to the socialist newsweekly, as well as on Socialist Workers Party candidates and their backers. Send such reports to help the party prepare to defend its exemption from being forced to hand over the names of supporters to the U.S. government’s Federal Election Commission, providing a potential “enemies’ list” for spy agencies, cops, bosses and rightist thugs. The SWP is beginning now to prepare for the next FEC hearing after the November 2016 elections.

The SWP victory in winning continued exemption — the fruit of the party’s decades of participation in the struggles of working people and of its battle-tested ability to respond to attacks by the rulers and their political police — is the first successful pushback by working-class forces against the bosses and their government in recent years.

This victory flies in the face of the aims of the rulers who attack our rights because they recognize from well over a century of struggles and revolutionary uprisings of working people that today’s initial stirrings of working-class solidarity and resistance portend big class battles ahead that will challenge their rule.

This drives the growing trend in the U.S. government toward greater use of executive power — a trend that has accelerated under the Obama presidency. The centralization of power in the executive office goes hand in hand with the chipping away at workers rights on many fronts. Examples this week include secret probes to harass the press and use of the IRS to target conservative political opponents of the current administration — under the same rubric of “disclosure” and “transparency” as the SWP’s FEC battle.

Help spread the word about the recent victory for the working class against “disclosure” and help the SWP prepare to defend it.

# Havana solidarity conference for Cuban 5

Continued from page 8

*Should Be Free* — articles from the *Militant* collected and published by Pathfinder Press — were sold during the conference. (See ad on page 3.)

“I really appreciate the book,” Yasmany Zurita Siam told the *Militant*. “It is a useful tool to explain who the Five are.” Zurita first got a copy of *The Cuban Five* last year in Holguín, Cuba, from U.S. delegates attending the Eighth International Colloquium for the Freedom of the Cuban Five and Against Terrorism. This time he picked up stacks of the book to distribute at a coming conference on the Five that he is helping organize in Camagüey province.

On May 1, International Workers Day and the last day of the conference, delegates joined a demonstration of some quarter million people in Havana in support of the Cuban Revolution.

The following day, more than 1,000 trade unionists and other participants from 73 countries — including 20 delegates from the youth conference —

came together for an International Union Solidarity Conference sponsored by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP).

The conference was organized around two workshops dedicated to the fight to free the Cuban Five.

More than 80 delegates from Canada and the United States joined Kenia Serrano, president of ICAP, and Graciela Ramírez, coordinator of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Five, in a workshop to plan building participation in “5 days for the 5.”

The day after the two conferences, on May 3, one of the first major victories in the fight was registered. René González won the battle to return to Cuba. Since he was paroled in October 2011, González had been forced to remain in the U.S. to serve a three-year term of court-supervised release. The other four remain in U.S. prisons with sentences ranging from 17 years and nine months for Fernando González to double life plus 15 years for Gerardo Hernández.

## ‘Free the Cuban Five’ Rally at the White House Saturday, June 1, 1 p.m.

Join protest and other ‘5 Days for the Cuban 5’ activities  
Washington, D.C., May 30-June 5

### Thursday, May 30

9 a.m. **Press Conference.** National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor, Bloomberg Room.  
5 p.m. **Orientation.** Howard University Hospital, 2041 Georgia Ave NW, Towers Bldg, Auditorium, 1st Floor.  
7 p.m. **Role of Cuba in Africa and the Cuban 5 in Angola.** Discussion with Cuban Ambassador José Ramón Cabañas; representative of Namibian Embassy; Eugene Puryear, ANSWER Coalition; Mary-Alice Waters, Pathfinder Press; Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report. Howard University Hospital, same location as above.

### Saturday, June 1

6 p.m. **Ecumenical-Cultural Event.** Special Guests: Angela Davis, former political prisoner; Nacyra Gómez Cruz, Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba; Yeidckol Polevnsky, former vice president of Mexican Senate; María León, member of Venezuelan National Assembly. Saint Stephen Church, 1525 Newton St.

### Sunday, June 2

1 p.m. **Chilean Music Event.** Casa Rutilio, 102 Park Ave., Takoma Park, Md. Ismael “Bandolero” Duran, Patricio Zamorano.  
2:30 p.m. **Hip Hop Cultural Event** with Head Roc and Mighty Gabby. Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 5301 North Capitol St., NE.

### Monday, June 3

11 a.m. **Meeting of Attorneys and Jurists.** Convened by Martin Garbus, attorney for legal team for Cuban Five. Georgetown Legal Center, 600 New Jersey Ave. NW.  
6 p.m. **Meeting of Union Members from U.S. and Abroad.** Dena Briscoe, president of APWU Local 140; Dennis Lemelin, national president of Canadian Union of Postal Workers; Santos Crespo, president AFSCME Local 372, NYC Board of Education Employees. Postal Workers Union Hall, 6139 Chillum Pl. NE.  
7 p.m. **Opening of Exhibit of 15 New Watercolor Pieces by Antonio Guerrero.** Followed by panel with Spanish writer Ignacio Ramonet; Jane Franklin, author and historian; Miguel Barnet, novelist, poet, president of National Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba (UNEAC). Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW.

### Tuesday, June 4

6 p.m. **Book Presentations about Democracy in Cuba and Case of Cuban Five.** Fernando Morais, *The Last Soldiers of the Cold War*; Stephen Kimber, *What Lies Across the Water*; Arnold August, *Cuba and Its Neighbours: Democracy in Motion*. Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW.

### Wednesday, June 5

5 p.m. **Closing event:** Actor Danny Glover and ambassadors from ALBA countries. Venezuelan Embassy, Bolivarian Hall, 2443 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

**For complete schedule and more information visit [www.thecuban5.org](http://www.thecuban5.org)**

# Injury to one, injury to all

Continued from page 9

ty” due to his membership in the SWP. Kutcher, who lost both legs during the war, won back his job and pension after an eight-year defense campaign that gained support from unions, veterans organizations, NAACP chapters, Black churches and civil liberties groups.

The SWP threw itself into the deepening battle to bring down Jim Crow segregation in the South. When thousands of Blacks in Montgomery, Ala., launched a boycott of city buses to protest segregated seating, Dobbs — again the SWP’s presidential candidate in 1956 — helped organize the Station Wagons for Montgomery Campaign. He drove a vehicle donated by unionists in Detroit to Montgomery and covered the fight there for the *Militant*.

This and other struggles against racist discrimination in Alabama led to a milestone victory against use of disclosure laws to destroy the NAACP by demanding it turn over membership lists to the state (and to the Ku Klux Klan and other nightriders). Protesting this assault on the right to privacy and political association, the group refused and was fined \$100,000. The NAACP took the case to the Supreme Court in 1958 and won. This victory was a precedent that helped the SWP win exemption from disclosure 16 years later.

These mighty proletarian battles for Black rights inspired a generation of youth in the 1960s and ’70s who were attracted by the Cuban Revolution, organized massive protests against the U.S. war in Vietnam and campaigned for a woman’s right to choose abortion. Through such fights, many were won to the course of building a mass revolutionary working-class party able to conquer power from the capitalist class and establish a workers and farmers government. They got involved in socialist election campaigns and joined the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance.

In response to this shift in the political situation, the SWP in 1973 launched a campaign to challenge government spying and disruption and strengthen workers rights. As part of this political effort, the party filed suit against the FBI and other cop agencies, charging them with violating its rights and those of its supporters.

Among many secret cop operations brought to light by this campaign, it forced the release of a government document reporting a 1956 White House meeting of the National Security Council to hear proposals by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. That meeting, attended by President Dwight Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon, approved disruption operations by informers, break-ins, wiretaps and bugs against government opponents. Six months later the FBI began its Cointelpro operations against the SWP, CP, Black groups and others.

In 1988, after a 15-year battle, the Socialist Workers Party won the case in federal court and the government announced it would not appeal. The facts about government spying and harassment unearthed during that fight have been important ever since in the SWP’s battle to win and maintain exemption from FEC-enforced financial disclosure laws.

In an October 2012 letter to the FEC petitioning to extend the SWP exemption, the party’s attorneys, Michael Krinsky and Lindsey Frank, reported that the FBI had amassed over 8 million documents on the SWP. Between 1960 and 1976, they wrote, “the FBI employed approximately 1,300 informers,” paid them over \$1.6 million, and “conducted at least 204 ‘surreptitious entries,’ or black bag jobs,” of SWP offices.

The decades-long revolutionary working-class course and political record of the Socialist Workers Party from its founding were at the heart of the fight. And the federal court ruled that these activities are protected by the Bill of Rights.

The extension won by the SWP this year of an exemption from having to turn over names to the FEC is the first successful push-back in some time by working-class forces against deepening attacks by the bosses and their government.

And as we said at the opening of this four-part series, the bedrock of that victory was the effort by “the many readers of the *Militant*, supporters of Socialist Workers Party campaigns and other defenders of political rights who didn’t let any incident of harassment, threats or attacks on SWP candidates or their backers go by in recent years without writing them up” for use by the Socialist Workers Party in this ongoing battle.