

Subscription
drive begins
to close gap,
2 weeks to go

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Supporters of the *Militant* sold 396 subscriptions during the fifth week of the international campaign to expand readership of the socialist press and get books that help advance the line of march of the working class toward political power into the hands of working people. Two weeks and 882 left to go!

ACTIVE WORKERS
CONFERENCE, JULY 19-20
—See article, p. 9

The great bulk of subscriptions are being sold door to door in working-class neighborhoods across the U.S. and in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

On June 8, Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, campaigned with sup-

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Spring 'Militant' subscription campaign				
May 4 - June 25 (week 5)				
Country	quota	sold	%	2,800
UNITED STATES				
Twin Cities	140	121	86%	Should be ... 1,918
Los Angeles	175	144	82%	
Seattle	160	130	81%	
Des Moines	140	113	81%	
Chicago	180	138	77%	
San Francisco	180	138	77%	
Miami	90	68	76%	
Lincoln	25	18	72%	
Philadelphia	140	100	71%	
Omaha	90	57	63%	
Washington	90	56	62%	Should be ... 1,918
New York	425	263	62%	
Houston	140	86	61%	
Boston	65	34	52%	
Atlanta	160	80	50%	
Total U.S.	2200	1546	70%	
PRISONERS	15	4	27%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	160	110	69%	
Manchester	100	69	69%	
UK Total	260	179	69%	
CANADA	120	75	63%	Should be ... 1,918
NEW ZEALAND	70	50	71%	
AUSTRALIA	80	64	80%	
Total	2745	1918	69%	
Should be	2800	2000	71%	

Mass protests across Turkey
press for democratic rights



Thousands demonstrate June 11 in Izmir, Turkey, against government repression. Riot cops dispersed anti-government protesters in Istanbul same day with rubber bullets and tear gas.

BY SUSAN LAMONT

Two weeks into large anti-government demonstrations in Istanbul and across Turkey, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is straining to end a budding protest movement without exacerbating the political crisis it is creating for the country's capitalist rulers. The actions remain largely composed of students, middle-class professionals and various political opposition groups. But they have also

won support from many workers and unions, which are stepping into the fray with their own demands.

The demonstrations are a sign of growing confidence among working people and their allies to press for greater rights and space for political discussion, debate and organization. The protests follow just a few weeks after a union-organized May Day demonstration in Istanbul was

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Bipartisan
chorus defends
vast Internet,
phone spying

BY JOHN STUDER

Leaked top-secret documents revealing the extent of U.S. government spying on phone and Internet communications have drawn attention to the chipping away at political rights and growing use of executive power that has continued under the Barack Obama administration — a course with broad backing among the propertied rulers and their two parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

On June 5 and June 7, London-based *Guardian* printed and reported on two government documents.

One shows Verizon has been providing the National Security Administration with detailed records of every phone communication from all of its more than 100 million customers. The document was a secret court order directing Verizon to turn over call records to the NSA for a three-month period starting April 2013. This order, Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Dianne Feinstein said later, is a routine extension of orders in place since 2007.

The other document, a NSA Power Point presentation, describes the

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Spirit of solidarity marked '5 days for the Cuban 5'
Events in Washington advance fight to free framed-up revolutionaries in US jails



June 1 protest at White House was among wide range of activities organized May 30-June 5 to advance international fight to free Cuban Five.

BY SETH GALINSKY

WASHINGTON — It was above all the broad "spirit of solidarity" that marked the "5 Days for the Cuban 5," Alicia Jrapko told the *Militant* following the May 30-June 5 week of activities here that advanced the fight to free five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned on frame-up charges in the U.S. since September 1998. Jrapko is U.S. coordinator of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5, which initiated and or-

ganized the weeklong calendar of events.

Last week's *Militant* coverage, written as the week's activities were only beginning, didn't capture the breadth and scope of that solidarity — what was accomplished through the common effort of many organizations and individuals, with diverse areas of interest and political viewpoints, who came together to advance the international fight to free the Five. Altogether, these were the most

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Internet, phone spying

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NSA’s top secret PRISM program, in which the spy agency has been directly seizing all foreign Internet communications from Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook, PalTalk, YouTube, Skype, AOL and Apple. While the NSA claims PRISM only targets foreign communications, it also records domestic communications it comes across in the process of its searches and turns some over to the FBI, the *Guardian* reported.

“The threat from terrorism remains very real and these lawful intelligence activities must continue, with the careful oversight of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government,” said a June 6 statement from Feinstein, a Democrat, and Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss, vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Several times they said the government is not listening to your phone calls, but collecting and analyzing patterns of telephone numbers, length of calls and other “meta-data.”

To listen to someone’s phone calls, Feinstein and Chambliss said, “would require a specific order from the FISA Court,” referring to the top-secret courts set up under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 that rubber-stamp spy agencies’ snooping warrants.

At a press conference in California June 7, Obama said “modest encroachments on privacy” are tradeoffs to protecting the American people and assured that “my team evaluated them. We scrubbed them thoroughly.”

“That’s not to suggest that you just say, trust me; we’re doing the right thing; we know who the bad guys are,” Obama said. “The reason that’s not how it works is because we’ve got congress-

sional oversight and judicial oversight.” After Sept. 11, 2001, then President George W. Bush initiated the current wiretap operation. After it was revealed by the *New York Times* in 2005, it was made legal by a bipartisan Congress in 2008. The authorization for the spying was extended for five years by Obama and Congress at the end of 2012.

Vocal opposition to the spy programs has been limited to a small handful of senators — Kentucky Republican Rand Paul and Democrats Mark Udall from Colorado and Ron Wyden of Oregon.

The *Wall Street Journal* was among the major dailies that ran editorials praising the Obama administration’s spy programs. The conservative *Investor’s Business Daily*, on the other hand, denounced the government’s violations of constitutional rights, while milder criticisms were printed in the liberal *New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

NSA contractor leaks to press

On June 8 self-proclaimed whistleblower Edward Snowden, who had access to classified information at the NSA as a computer specialist and employee of defense contractor Booz Allen Hamilton, came forward to claim credit for the leaks. Snowden said what he did was similar to what Private Bradley Manning did, but more selective and with more concern for U.S. government interests. A court-martial hearing for Manning, who was arrested in May 2010 for turning over a massive amount of classified data to website Wikileaks, began June 3.

“The NSA has built an infrastructure that allows it to intercept almost everything. With this capability, the vast majority of human communications are au-

Teamsters strike Park ‘N Fly at San Francisco airport



Militant/Eric Simpson

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — “Our backs are against the wall and we had to fight for this,” said driver Larmart Crochett (right), picketing here along with Modesto Conception June 1 against Park ‘N Fly, a parking lot for travelers flying out of the San Francisco International Airport.

The Teamsters contract expired Oct. 31, 2011. The 25 drivers and five cashiers walked out May 24 against company concession demands that include cutting back vacations and paid holidays.

—WILLIE COTTON

tomatically ingested without targeting,” Snowden told the *Guardian*. “I can get your emails, passwords, phone records, credit cards.”

“You simply have to eventually fall under suspicion from somebody,” Snowden continued. “Then they can use this system to go back in time and scrutinize every decision you’ve ever made, every friend you’ve ever discussed something with. And attack you on that basis.”

The interviews were conducted in Hong Kong, where Snowden fled before leaking the documents.

“I think it’s an act of treason,” Feinstein said June 10 in reference to Snowden’s leaks to the press, reported *The Hill*.

Snowden’s leaks come less than a month after two other revelations: the Justice Department’s wiretapping and spy operations against Associated Press and Fox News reporters and the Obama administration’s use of the Internal Revenue Service to go after political opponents.

As part of the Obama administration’s efforts to defend use of executive power to expand spy operations, they have in-

voked the Espionage Act of 1917 to go after government officials they charge with leaking secrets to the press. Obama has used the act to file charges six times — twice as many as all his predecessors combined.

“To my knowledge, we have not had any citizen who has registered a complaint relative to the gathering of this information,” Senator Chambliss asserted in a joint press conference with Feinstein, in reference to the recent leaks to the *Guardian*.

In fact there have been a number of legal challenges to the wiretap programs, including from Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

The Supreme Court threw out the case brought by the ACLU and Amnesty International, agreeing with the government’s argument that since the programs are secret, those bringing suit could not prove they were being wiretapped.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation suit is still in court. The Obama administration says it should be tossed out because the wiretaps are protected by “presidential privilege.”

THE MILITANT

Join June 17 UMWA rally against union busting

The ‘Militant’ covers the fight by the United Mine Workers union against Patriot Coal’s moves through bankruptcy proceedings to gut union contracts and slash health care for retirees. Join in solidarity with the miners in their next protest action June 17 in St. Louis.



Militant/Jim Garrison

Miners demonstrate in Henderson, Ky., June 4 against court ruling allowing Patriot Coal to tear up union contract.

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

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

Subscription campaign

Continued from front page

porters in the Rockaway neighborhood of Queens. When Fein told Dayann McDonough that he had spoken at a rally the week before to demand freedom for Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera, she exclaimed, “I know about him. I corresponded with Oscar back and forth for years!”

“The government is not by the people and for the people. It belongs to the rich,” said her husband Brian McDonough, an electrician and a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 3, as he signed up for a subscription.

The two also got copies of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* and *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*.

“I hate oppression, this world is crazy,” said Nigeria-born Frank Dike, a construction worker, when Nyamekye

Simms and Andrés Mendoza knocked on his door June 9 in the Clayton area of Manchester, England. “What’s the answer?” he asked.

Simms and Mendoza pointed to the Cuban Revolution and the revolutionary course of Thomas Sankara, leader of the 1983-87 revolution in the West African nation of Burkina Faso, as examples of the capacities of toiling humanity to change society and themselves in the process of revolutionary struggle. When they explained how following the *Militant* is a way for working people to learn about others working to organize politically along these lines, Dike decided to get a subscription along with a copy of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*.

“It’s nice when you see fact and truth written, rather than the usual stuff in the media,” Ngaire Hira, who works as a caretaker in Christchurch, New Zealand, told *Militant* supporters as she signed up for a subscription. The team of *Militant* distributors made the trip to talk to workers two years after a massive earthquake devastated the city.

“I’m becoming more interested in history since the last May Day march,” Mar Cruz, who works as a nanny, told *Militant* supporters when they knocked on her door in Kent, Wash., June 9. She had participated in the May 1 actions against deportations and criminalization of immigrant workers. “I’ve been trying to learn more about Cuba among other things,” said Cruz, who purchased a subscription and a copy of *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution*.

Subscription renewals are



Militant/Eric Simpson

“The *Militant* helps me understand what’s happening in the world,” said subscriber Heather Seymour (center) when *Militant* distributor Joel Britton came by her home in San Bruno, Calif.

also counted on the chart to register the goal of winning long-term readers.

“For the first time, I am really interested in learning about what’s happening in the world. The *Militant* helps me with that,” Heather Seymour told distributors from San Francisco who knocked on her door in San Bruno, Calif., June 6 to ask her to renew. Seymour works as a receptionist for a building supply company.

She signed up for another three months and bought *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* and *Women and Revolution*.

“Workers in this country are facing a crisis and we have to do something about it,” Anthony Roberts, who renewed his subscription, told *Militant* supporters when they visited him in Brooklyn’s Crown Heights neighborhood June 4. “We need to come together and fight. That’s the only solution for us.”

A cutter in a Brooklyn garment shop, Roberts was first introduced to the *Militant* by distributor Ruth Robinett when they worked together there. Roberts, originally from Grenada, supported Maurice Bishop, leader of the

1979-83 revolution there.

Roberts also gave \$53 to the *Militant* Fighting Fund to help the paper and bought five of the books on special. (See article on page 5.)

Prisoners’ subscriptions

The *Militant* received the fourth prisoner subscription from a worker behind bars in Pennsylvania. We call on our readers behind bars to join the effort to expand the readership of the paper and reach the goal of getting 15 subscriptions in prisons.

The *Militant* Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible for inmates, often with help from friends and family, to subscribe at a reduced rate of \$6 for six months. Subscriptions are also offered free of charge to those with no means to pay.

Next week will be another important opportunity to expand the *Militant*’s readership among coal miners with the June 17 protest in St Louis against Patriot Coal’s union-busting moves. Last week some 70 subscriptions were sold in mining regions, outside mine portals and at a protest against Patriot in Henderson, Ky.

Join the international campaign. Call distributors listed on page 8 or contact us at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com.



Militant/Andrés Mendoza

Frank Dike buys subscription and *Thomas Sankara Speaks* from Nyamekye Simms in Manchester, England.

Special offers with ‘Militant’ subscription

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

by Jack Barnes

\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

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

The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism

by Jack Barnes

\$2 with subscription (regular \$3)

We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions

by Thomas Sankara

Speeches from the Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87

\$5 with subscription (regular \$10)

Thomas Sankara Speaks

The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-1987

\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

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

by Jack Barnes

\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)

Cuba and Angola

Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own

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

\$6 with subscription (regular \$12)

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)

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

An Evening to Benefit the Militant Fighting Fund: As World Economic Crisis Intensifies: Working Class Faces Mounting Attacks. Speaker: James Harris, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., June 15. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$7 dinner, \$5 program. 4025 S. Western Ave. Tel.: (323) 295-2600.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Civil War in Syria: What’s at Stake for Workers and How It Affects Turkey, Lebanon. Speaker: Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 21, 7:30 p.m. 416 E. Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Meet the Socialist Workers Party Candidates. Fri., June 21. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor (use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

CANADA

Montreal

Dr. Henry Morgentaler: Abortion Rights Fighter. How the Right to Abortion Was Won and Will Be Defended. Speaker: Beverly Bernardo, Communist League. Fri., June 21, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

5 Days for the 5

Continued from front page
significant activities so far in the U.S. in support of this worldwide campaign.

Participants came not only from up and down the East Coast, Jrapko told the *Militant*, but from the Midwest and as far away as California. They traveled from 22 countries, including journalists, artists, actors and writers, as well as members of parliament from seven nations in Latin America and Europe, who spearheaded visits to 43 offices in the Senate and House of Representatives.

Joining the June 1 picket line and rally of several hundred outside the White House were two busloads of workers, unionists, students and others from New York City, including some just learning about the case. Vanloads came from Montreal and Chicago, and dozens from other cities and towns. A contingent of 38 Cuban-Americans from Miami, organized by Alianza Martiana, took part in the rally and other events.

Activities included an opening press conference May 30; meetings of trade unionists from several countries; an ecumenical gathering; a panel of attorneys discussing the case; a community event in Takoma Park, Md.; a panel discussion on Cuba's internationalist mission in Angola and another presenting several new books about Cuba and the Cuban Five; concerts, an art exhibit, and other cultural events; congressional lobbying; a live video conference with participants in Washington and Havana; and a closing plenary to discuss ongoing work.

Break the silence

"We still face the most important task of the struggle, which is to break the silence and break another blockade, the one imposed on the people of the United States by the U.S. government and the corporate media," René González, one of the Five, told a June 1 ecumenical-cultural event at Saint Stephen's Church via a pre-recorded video from Havana. Jrapko chaired the meeting.

González recently won the battle to return to Cuba after being released from prison on parole in 2011. "We were protecting Cuba against violence," he said, referring to the work he, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and Antonio Guerrero had been doing before their arrests, gathering information for the Cuban government on right-wing Cuban-American groups with a history of bombings and other attacks on Cuba and supporters of the revolution in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Angela Davis, the featured speaker Saturday night, was introduced by José Ramón Cabañas, chief of the Cuban



Photos by Bill Hackwell

Participants from across U.S. and 22 countries took part in events during "5 Days for the Cuban 5." **Top**, Angela Davis addresses June 1 ecumenical-cultural event at Saint Stephen's Church. **Above**, event presenting new books on Cuban Five and Cuban Revolution at Busboys and Poets restaurant, June 4. Second from left, chairing meeting, Cuban writer Miguel Barnet. Book authors Stephen Kimber (speaking), Arnold August and Fernando Morais. **Top left**, Barbadian calypsonian Anthony "Mighty Gabby" Carter performs at June 2 concert. **Bottom left**, Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet and Alicia Jrapko, U.S. coordinator of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5, at May 30 opening press conference.

Barnet, president of the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba; Nacyra Gómez Cruz, Secretary of International Relations of the Christian Conference for Peace for Latin America and the Caribbean; Rev. Edgar Palacios, member of the Baptist World Alliance; and Argentine Nobel prize winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, who sent a video message. Calypso singer and Barbados' cultural ambassador Anthony "Mighty Gabby" Carter performed a song he wrote calling for freedom for the Five. He also performed at a hip-hop cultural event, along with rapper Head Roc.

On June 3 a panel of lawyers brought participants up to date on legal appeals in the case. The event, held at the Georgetown University Legal Center, was chaired by José Pertierra, a lawyer for the Venezuelan government, and featured Martin Garbus, lead attorney for the Five; Rafael Anglada, also part of the Five's defense team; and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Garbus and other lawyers for Gerardo Hernández — who received the longest sentence, two life terms plus 15 years — filed a habeas corpus motion in federal court in Florida in 2010 asking that his conviction be vacated on several grounds, including new evidence that Miami-area journalists got government funds to write articles during the trial that were prejudicial to the defense. Habeas petitions for Labañino, Guerrero and Fernando González have also been filed.

The court, Garbus said, has still not held even a preliminary hearing on the 2010 habeas motions or additional ones filed this year asking the court to require the government to turn over documents on the payments made to journalists.

Also speaking were Peter Schey, Center For Human Rights and Constitutional Law; Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, Partnership for Civil Justice Fund; and Gloria La Riva, National Committee to Free the Cuban Five. Jan Fermon of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers announced an international tribunal on the Five to be held in the United Kingdom early next year.

Another highlight of the "5 Days for the 5" was the exhibit, "I will die the way I lived," new watercolors painted by Guerrero, one for each of the 15

years since the arrests. The title is from a song by the famous Cuban singer Silvio Rodríguez. The June 3 opening, together with a panel of prominent writers, artists, and others from Cuba, France, Italy, and the U.S., was held at Busboys and Poets, a popular restaurant, bookstore and meeting place.

Introducing the exhibit, Gilbert Brownstone, a longtime museum curator, said the paintings are "exceptional in their clarity and sense of justice." Guerrero gave each painting a title and short text. For "Number!?" Guerrero writes, "They do not only take your freedom away, but turn you into a number." For "The Night Watch," with eyes glowing in the dark: "There is a timetable for the officers of the night watch to count the prisoners. However, they can do it at any time of the night and day." And in "Fishing" Guerrero depicts how prisoners in their cells exchange magazines and other items.

'In Cuba the Five are heroes'

Earlier that evening a panel of union officials and activists discussed how to win more unions and workers to the fight. "Here in the U.S. promoting the case of the Cuban Five in the labor movement is a critical part of our work," said Cheryl LaBash, an organizer of "5 Days for the 5" who chaired the meeting.

The panel included Denis Lemelin, national president, Canadian Union of Postal Workers; Santos Crespo, president, AFSCME Local 372, New York City; Dena Briscoe, president, American Postal Workers Union Local 140, Washington, D.C., and Maryland; Carl Gentile, American Federation of Government Employees District 4; Rob Miller of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign in the United Kingdom; and others.

Briscoe said she first learned about the Cuban Five during a 2010 labor delegation to Cuba. "At every union place in the country we visited they told us about the Five. They see them as heroes," she said.

On June 4 authors of three new books about Cuba or the Cuban Five spoke at Busboys and Poets: Fernando Morais, author of the *Last Soldiers of the Cold War*; Arnold August, author of *Cuba and Its Neighbors: Democracy in*

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Who are the Cuban Five?

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

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

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government's 1996 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.

Locked-out Steelworkers in Ontario win solidarity

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ
AND KATY LEROUGETEL

NANTICOKE, Ontario — Some 400 members of Steelworkers Local 8782 and supporters gathered for a barbecue and rally May 25 in front of U.S. Steel’s Lake Erie Works here in solidarity with nearly 1,000 workers locked out by the company since April 28 — the third lockout since 2007.

On April 23 members of Local 8782 rejected by 70 percent U.S. Steel’s contract offer that would effectively eliminate seniority in job placement and increase employee health care costs.

“It’s not the money. It’s the way you’re treated,” said Doug Runions, an industrial electrician at the U.S. Steel plant here.

Buses and cars came in from Hamilton, Toronto and elsewhere. Union flags identified participants from the Canadian Autoworkers, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation and several Steelworkers locals, including USW 1005 at U.S.

Steel’s Hamilton Works.

“Today marks the beginning of a long struggle,” Local 8782 President Bill Ferguson told the rally.

“The companies want to take away seniority and work jurisdiction,” said Laird Thomson, a representative of International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 90, who came with a dozen members of the local. Some 1,400 members of the union in Ontario have been on strike since May 1.

Many workers told the *Militant* they felt the company provoked the confrontation in response to falling prices and demand for steel worldwide.

The company did not return calls requesting comment.

U.S. Steel bought Canadian steel company Stelco in 2007. Steelworkers officials have centered much of their fire on the fact that Stelco is now foreign-owned and have called on the Canadian government to invoke the Canada Investment Act to oblige the company to maintain jobs and production levels.



Militant/Katy LeRougetel

Steelworkers locked out by bosses at U.S. Steel’s Lake Erie Works rally by plant in Nanticoke, Ontario, May 25. Workers had rejected contract eliminating seniority in job placement.

“This foreign company bought a valuable asset you helped to build and they’re destroying it,” Steelworkers National Director Ken Neumann told pickets on the first day of the lockout. “That’s not the kind of foreign corporations we want in Canada.”

The company proposal increases prescription fees from the current drug

card payment of 50 cents to \$300 yearly plus 10 percent co-payment.

“For me, the co-payment is a big issue, as you can see,” said locked-out Steelworker Shannon Horner at the rally, pointing to her 15-year-old daughter in a wheelchair. “Once you start with co-payments before you know it, you go up to 50 percent.”

“Teachers organized a solidarity lunch for us. There’s more support than I was expecting,” said picket Sharron Hardwick.

Militant Fighting Fund gains new contributors

BY LEA SHERMAN

Supporters of the *Militant* are reaching out to readers of the working-class paper to make the international goal of raising \$118,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund.

The annual fund makes it possible to meet the paper’s operating expenses and respond to important political developments around the U.S. and the world.

Supporters in Des Moines, Iowa, have set a goal of winning at least 15

new contributors to the fund. So far 12 have given \$56.

“Among the new contributors is a co-worker at the printing company where I work, Kyle, who recently renewed his subscription and made a \$5 donation to the fund,” said Chuck Guerra, who is helping lead the fund effort in Des Moines. “Other new contributors were workers we met campaigning door to door, including a construction worker, a truck driver, a warehouse order picker, a worker at an agricultural machinery factory and a worker at a tire factory.”

Dag Tirsén wrote from Manchester, England, that supporters of the *Militant* have collected \$570, more than supporters of the socialist paper there have done since the city first made the chart

two years ago. A coworker contributed \$15 and door-to-door sales of the paper netted \$12 more in contributions.

In London \$920 has been collected, including \$90 raised on door-to-door sales. “We have been taking collection tins with us on the sales, which often prompts people to give. At least three subscribers have contributed for the first time,” wrote Ögmundur Jónsson.

Because the *Militant* is a working-class newspaper, it depends on support from working people, who have an interest in making sure the working-class voice comes out each week.

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

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*.

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PathfinderPress.com

Militant Fighting Fund			
May 4 - June 25 (week 4)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Boston	\$3,500	\$2,740	78%
Des Moines	\$2,600	\$1,529	59%
New York	\$20,000	\$10,674	53%
San Francisco	\$13,500	\$6,717	50%
Atlanta	\$9,000	\$3,805	42%
Seattle	\$8,500	\$3,350	39%
Lincoln	\$200	\$75	38%
Twin Cities	\$5,500	\$2,055	37%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$2,858	34%
Omaha	\$600	\$183	31%
Miami	\$3,000	\$836	28%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$2,550	27%
Philadelphia	\$4,300	\$785	18%
Washington	\$7,800	\$4	0%
Houston	\$4,000	\$0	0%
Other		\$650	
Total U.S.	\$100,500	\$38,811	39%
CANADA	\$7,000	\$3,091	44%
NEW ZEALAND	\$5,500	\$4,520	82%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500	\$1,160	77%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,000	\$920	46%
Manchester	\$600	\$570	95%
Total UK	\$2,600	\$1,490	57%
FRANCE	\$350	\$143	41%
Total	\$117,100	\$49,215	42%
Should be	\$118,000	\$67,429	57%

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

June 24, 1988

South Korean student protesters won a victory June 14 when the government allowed a group of 1,300 students to travel to a town near the border with North Korea. They held a demonstration for reunification of the two countries.

Seoul, the capital of South Korea, has been shaken for several weeks by a series of massive student demonstrations demanding reunification, the withdrawal of the 42,000 U.S. troops based in South Korea, and an end to U.S. economic and political domination of their country.

On June 10 more than 10,000 university students tried to march 35 miles north from Seoul to the town of Panmunjom near the DMZ. The young demonstrators were trying to meet up with a delegation of university students in North Korea, who had marched south to join them. The South Korean government’s response to the planned march was a police crackdown throughout Seoul.

June 24, 1963

The assassination of Medgar Evers, Mississippi NAACP field secretary, in Jackson proves that Negroes in the South have no police protection whatever. They cannot look for protection to the very racist police who are illegally clubbing them off the streets and jailing them for peacefully demonstrating for their rights.

There are even strong indications of collusion between the Southern police and the racist terrorists of the civilian variety. In Jackson it was common knowledge that Medgar Evers was under constant surveillance by local police. His phones were tapped, his car was followed wherever he went.

But when Evers was murdered at 1:20 a.m., June 12, as he stepped from his car in front of his home, there were no police present. Why did Jackson cops refrain from tailing the Negro leader on just the night an assassin lay waiting in the bushes to shoot him down?

June 25, 1938

The inclusion of Puerto Rico in the Wages and Hours Bill passed at the last session of Congress is upsetting Puerto Rican employers. On June 17, “industrial leaders” in San Juan sent a radio-gram to President Roosevelt protesting the application of the legislation to the island, and predicting “grave economic disturbances” as a result. Embroidery manufacturers in the United States, who send work to the island, had protested to Governor Winship that a 25-cent minimum wage would make it necessary to discontinue that practice.

The needle trades in the island are a sweated industry carried on under homework conditions. Manufacturers in the United States ship the materials to Puerto Rico for distribution by agents to workers who do the finishing, and the complete products are shipped back to the United States. About half of the workers in the needle trades receive less than two cents an hour.

Henry Morgentaler, champion for rights of women in Canada

Pressed successful fight to decriminalize abortion

BY ANNETTE KOURI

MONTREAL — Dr. Henry Morgentaler, a longtime leader in the movement to decriminalize abortion in Canada, died May 29 at the age of 90. Because of his public and principled defiance of Canada's previous restrictive federal abortion law, he became a well-known spokesperson for women's right to choose in Canada and internationally.

Morgentaler was dragged into court four separate times because he publicly admitted to performing abortions in disregard for the law requiring approval by hospital board committees. He was acquitted every time by juries who accepted his defense that the abortions were necessary to save the life and health of the women.

In 1988 Canada's Supreme Court upheld Morgentaler's last acquittal and struck down the abortion law, ruling that it denied women the right of "life, liberty and security of the person."

Before immigrating to Canada in 1950 at age 27, Morgentaler, of Jewish descent, endured several years in Nazi concentration camps. The experience deeply marked his political outlook.

As a general practitioner in a working-class neighborhood of Montreal in the 1960s, Morgentaler initially refused to break Canada's abortion law, which at the time carried a possible life sentence. But he changed his approach after treating several patients with life-threatening injuries as a result of botched abortions.

"I decided to break the law to provide a necessary medical service because women were dying at the hands of butchers and incompetent quacks, and there was no one there to help them," he told his biographer in 1996.

Morgentaler was also influenced by the landmark 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that struck down state laws restricting abortion up to 24 weeks and recognized that the constitutional right to privacy protects a woman's right to choose.

"The Supreme Court decision in the United States was historic," Morgentaler told the *Militant* in 1984. "I wanted to see Canadian women have the same rights as their American sisters."

Morgentaler's challenge to Canada's federal law took place in the context

of a social movement for national and workers' rights in Quebec. Beginning in the 1960s, hundreds of thousands of Quebecois workers and youth took part in strikes and demonstrations for union and French-language rights and against national discrimination. These mobilizations culminated in a province-wide general strike in 1972 in defense of union leaders arrested during a fight by public-sector workers for an increase in the minimum wage.

Growing support for Morgentaler included backing from the Quebec Federation of Labour (FTQ), Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) and teachers organizations.

"In Quebec a French-Canadian, Roman Catholic jury acquitted me," Morgentaler told the *Militant* in 1984, referring to his first acquittal in November 1973. The jury understood the motivation, they understood the problems of French-Canadian women who could not get a hospital abortion."

The Quebec Court of Appeals made an unprecedented decision around Morgentaler's second jury acquittal when they reversed the verdict and declared Morgentaler guilty in 1974. Morgentaler was sentenced to 18 months but released after 10, following a heart attack.

Under political pressure the federal



Militant/ Bjorn Tirsén

"The U.S. Supreme Court decision was historic," Dr. Henry Morgentaler said, in reference to the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision decriminalizing abortion. "I wanted to see Canadian women have the same rights as their American sisters." The procedure was decriminalized in Canada in 1988. Above, Morgentaler receives award at women's rights rally in Toronto April 25, 2004.

government in 1976 passed the "Morgentaler law," preventing courts from reversing a jury decision on appeal.

The jury at his third trial, which took place while he was still in prison, threw out the charges after just 55 minutes of deliberation. In 1976 the newly elected nationalist Parti Quebecois declared it would grant immunity to doctors who were qualified to practice abortion.

Morgentaler launched abortion clinics in several provinces across the country in defiance of physical and legal threats. At his fourth trial in 1984, an Ontario jury threw out criminal charges initiated by the provincial government — four years before the Canadian Supreme Court decriminalized abortion.

Today in Canada, as in the U.S., access to abortion is uneven and under assault. Clinics and hospitals providing abortions under government medicare exist only in large urban centers, a major obstacle for women in small towns and rural areas. And abortions are not allowed in the eastern province of Prince Edward Island.

Rightist forces opposed to legal abortion continue to campaign inside and outside the federal parliament for new legislation designed to chip away at the 1988 decision. But no federal government has dared to directly challenge that landmark victory, for which Morgentaler was among its most outstanding champions.

El Salvador law threatens woman's life, spurs protests



Reuters/Ulises Rodriguez

Protest outside Supreme Court in San Salvador, El Salvador, May 15 in support of woman requesting abortion because pregnancy was threat to her life and because fetus she carried was anencephalic, lacking a brain. A 1998 law in El Salvador bars abortions without exception.

BY SUSAN LAMONT

The recent case of a young woman in El Salvador who sought a life-saving abortion has thrown a spotlight on the fight for women's right to control their own bodies and their lives.

On June 4 doctors at the National Maternity Hospital in San Salvador terminated the pregnancy of a seriously ill 22-year-old woman, known publicly as "Beatriz," whose life was threatened by continuation of her pregnancy.

Five days earlier, the Supreme Court had voted to deny permission for an abortion, despite recommendations by her doctors and the Minister of Health. Beatriz, who suffers from lupus and kidney problems, nearly died giving birth to her first child.

Doctors finally performed a Caesarian section on Beatriz, who was nearly seven months pregnant. The fetus, which suffered from a severe brain abnormality, lived for five hours.

"The case of Beatriz has brought the question of abortion to public attention for the first time since the total ban on abortion was passed," said Angelica Rivas Monge, a spokesperson for the Feminist Collective, in a June 7 phone interview from San Salvador. "There was a broad consensus among working people in favor of Beatriz."

Before 1998 abortion was allowed when necessary to save a woman's life, in cases of rape, or if the fetus had a serious congenital disorder.

Several hundred people demonstrated

in support of Beatriz and for a change in the law outside both the Supreme Court and Legislative Assembly in San Salvador, Rivas said. There were also picket lines at Salvadoran embassies in Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Spain, Canada and the United Kingdom.

To enforce the total ban, the government of El Salvador set up a police apparatus with cops, investigators, medical spies, and a special division of the prosecutor's office, targeting both women and doctors suspected of violating the law.

"From 2000 to 2011, 129 women were prosecuted for abortion or homicide," Rivas said. "The penalty for an illegal abortion is from two to eight years in prison. Those most affected by the law are poor women from rural areas." In some cases prosecutors have charged women who have abortions with "aggravated homicide." The Feminist Collective is providing legal and other help to a woman who was sentenced to 40 years in prison in one such case.

No political party has come out in support of Beatriz or for changing the abortion ban. "They have all been silent," Rivas said.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, which carries out research and education on reproductive and sexual health, about 1 million women in Latin America and the Caribbean are hospitalized annually due to unsafe, illegal abortions. The governments of Nicaragua and Chile also ban abortion in all cases.

In Uruguay, a law allowing abortion in the first trimester for any reason was passed last year, after a similar measure passed in Mexico City. Abortion is also legal in Cuba, Guyana and Puerto Rico.



‘Cuba will never renounce solidarity with Puerto Rico’

1979 speech by Cuban revolutionary Juan Almeida honored freed independence fighters

Reprinted here is a speech by historic leader of the Cuban Revolution Juan Almeida (1927-2009) at a Nov. 1, 1979, award ceremony in Havana for five Puerto Rican independence fighters.

Oscar Collazo, one of the Puerto Rican nationalists, was jailed after taking part in a 1950 attack on Blair House, President Harry Truman’s temporary residence. Rafael Cancel Miranda, Lolita Lebrón, Irving Flores and Andrés Figueroa Cordero were imprisoned after carrying out an armed action in the U.S. Congress on March 1, 1954, in answer to the removal of Puerto Rico from the U.N. list of colonies the year before.

On Sept. 10, 1979, Lebrón, Cancel Miranda, Flores and Collazo were released from prison after being given clemency by President James Carter. All four refused to accept conditions restricting their participation in the fight for independence. Cordero, who was released in 1977 because of advanced cancer, died in March 1979.

Cancel Miranda, now 82, continues to be an outspoken leader of the Puerto Rican independence struggle and supporter of the Cuban Revolution.

The *Militant* prints Almeida’s speech following May 29 protests in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Cuba demanding Washington free Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera and a June 1 rally in Washington, D.C., to free the Cuban Five — actions that demonstrated both support for these fighters and the deep-rooted bonds of solidarity between the struggle for Puerto Rican independence and the Cuban Revolution.

The text of the speech is from *Granma*. Subheads and footnotes are by the *Militant*.



Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party and President of the Councils of State and of Ministers;

Beloved Puerto Rican patriots Lolita Lebrón, Oscar Collazo, Rafael Cancel, and Irving Flores; Comrades:

At tonight’s ceremony the people of Cuba, their Communist Party, and their revolutionary government are fulfilling a fine duty of fighting solidarity and paying deeply felt homage to you, comrades Lolita Lebrón, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irving Flores, and Oscar Collazo.

You are representatives of the heroism and self-sacrifice of our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters in the more than 100-year struggle for the freedom and independence of your country, a struggle that began against Spanish colonialism and continues today against imperialism.

On this occasion José Martí’s saying — “To pay honor is an honor unto itself” — takes on special significance. It is an honor for Cuba to pin these medals on your chests, dear comrades. These medals symbolize a glorious moment in our history written on the sands of Playa Girón: the first great defeat of imperialism in Latin America.

By a unique coincidence, you were set free on Sept. 12, the anniversary of the birth of Don Pedro Albizu Campos², the tireless fighter who devoted his entire life as a patriot and revolutionary to winning Puerto Rican independence.

That date emphasizes the history of



Militant/Dan Dickeson

Thousands welcome Rafael Cancel Miranda (with clenched fist), Lolita Lebrón, Irving Flores, and Oscar Collazo in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sept. 1979, after their release from U.S. prisons.

a struggle that begins with the Grito de Lares [the Cry of Lares, an 1868 anti-colonial uprising], that identifies with the program of the Cuban Revolutionary Party founded by Martí, and that goes on unrelentingly behind the walls of enemy prisons — a struggle that has become a living consciousness in the hearts of the Puerto Rican people.

None of these sacrifices have been in vain, nor have they failed to move the Cuban Revolution, the heir to Martí. During those glorious days of the Moncada, the *Granma*, and the Sierra Maestra, the Centennial Generation was always conscious of the historical significance of the struggle developing in Puerto Rico.³

When young Cubans led by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro attacked the dictatorship’s fortress in Santiago de Cuba, Oscar Collazo had already been in prison since 1950.

Months after that glorious 26th of July, when we were still being mercilessly persecuted — when repression left painful empty spaces in our ranks, but while a national consciousness began to mature — the world was amazed to hear that a commando of Puerto Rican nationalists, a woman and three men, had carried out a bold revolutionary action, one that was to result in their imprisonment for more than a quarter century. That action made the struggle for Puerto Rican independence known throughout the world.

For that unshakable commitment to the independence of your country, which has been so fully demonstrated in long years of difficult and solitary imprisonment, and so you can wear them on your chests and in your hearts, we present you tonight with the Playa Girón

1. At Playa Girón Cuban revolutionary forces defeated the U.S.-organized Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961.
2. Pedro Albizu Campos (1891-1965) was the central leader of the independence movement in Puerto Rico for decades.
3. On July 26, 1953, Fidel Castro led an attack on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba. On Dec. 2, 1956, Castro and others returned to Cuba in the *Granma* yacht to initiate the revolutionary war from the Sierra Maestra mountains. Revolutionary youth led by Castro referred to themselves as the “Centennial Generation” in recognition of their revolutionary continuity with the legacy of independence fighter José Martí, who was born in 1853.

National Order — given to you collectively, by decision of our people — and the 20th Anniversary Medal commemorating the assault on the Moncada garrison, which we have the honor of giving to each of you individually.

There is a memory that cloaks this solemn ceremony in sadness, however. Beloved comrade Andrés Figueroa Cordero, who took part in the action on the U.S. Congress, is not with us tonight. Figueroa Cordero died at the beginning of this year of a fatal illness. In his case, imperialism reproduced the inhuman strategy it used against Don Pedro Albizu Campos. They freed him when he was dying to avoid the repercussions and responsibility for his death in prison. Tonight we confer upon him posthumously the Playa Girón National Order, as a member of the group of patriots, and the 20th Anniversary Medal commemorating the assault on the Moncada garrison.

Example of revolutionary spirit

Dear comrades, you were the protagonists of a heroic action taken out of a simple sense of duty. Perhaps your modesty and simplicity make it difficult for you to fully appreciate the example of revolutionary spirit you represent for this and future generations. Your qualities and virtues, your forthright conduct, the commitment of your lives reflect the exceptional conditions that the Heroic Guerrilla Ernesto Che Guevara eloquently described when he said that to be a revolutionary was to reach the highest pinnacle of humanity.

Comrades Lolita Lebrón, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irving Flores, and Oscar Collazo: you suffered on your own flesh the blows of imperialism and colonialism, and you carried on your shoulders the pain of hundreds of thousands of oppressed and exploited Puerto Rican compatriots.

As the children of workers and peasants, you emigrated to the United States in search of the economic stability you could not find at home.

Lolita Lebrón, a textile worker; Oscar and Andrés, of peasant origin; Rafael, a student and, for a time, a construction worker in Cuba; and Irving, a diligent worker in a tailor shop — you threw in your lot on the side of justice and your country, on the side of liberation and the dignity of man.

Victims of the brutality of Yankee prisons, you were isolated and cut off

from world events. Imperialism tried in vain to break you with cruelty or promises, so you would renounce your noble ideals. Accustomed to buying everything, haggling over everything, they were convinced they could corrupt the consciousness of these patriots. Once again they were incapable of assessing courageous men and women; they failed.

On every occasion, and in response to every maneuver, the group of prisoners answered: No! They constantly reaffirmed Puerto Rico’s right to be free and independent!

Solidarity of the peoples

The prison gates were not opened by some supposed imperialist generosity. They were opened by the action of world public opinion, the solidarity of the peoples, the moral and political weight of a new relationship of forces and, above all, by the moral and revolutionary intransigence of the prisoners themselves.

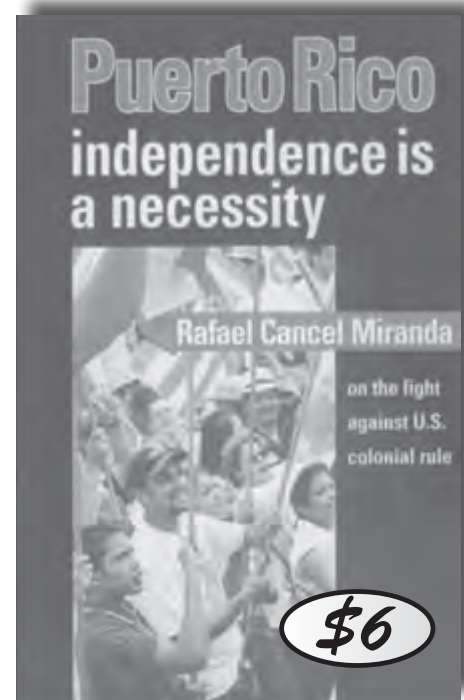
For 29 years Oscar Collazo, and for more than 25 Lolita Lebrón, Rafael Cancel, and Irving Flores repeated their slogan: If we had more lives, we would give them all for Puerto Rico’s freedom!

They refused to even discuss the possibility of a conditional pardon.

At tonight’s ceremony, beloved comrades, we are not only honoring exemplary revolutionaries. We are reaffirming our unshakable commitment to continue fighting alongside you and your patriotic people for the Puerto Rican cause. No imperialist pressure or threat will ever make Cuba renounce this sacred duty of Latin American solidarity and historical brotherhood.

Beloved comrades, in the name of the Cuban people, our Communist Party, and the Council of State, we warmly welcome you to the land of José Martí. In his name and with unbridled emotion, please allow Comrade Fidel to confer these decorations on you. You have our highest admiration, our love, and our unshakable solidarity. And allow us to join you in proclaiming:

Long live free and independent Puerto Rico!



“Our people are becoming aware of their own strength, which is what the colonial powers fear”
— Rafael Cancel Miranda.

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How capitalist rulers foist social needs of workers on the family

Below is an excerpt from Problems of Women's Liberation, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June. Author Evelyn Reed (1905-1979), a leading member of the Socialist Workers Party, explores the economic and social roots of women's oppression as an integral part of class-divided society. Copyright © 1969 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EVELYN REED

The very term “family,” which came into existence along with the system of private property, originally signified this domestic slavery. As Engels says:

Famulus means domestic slave, and familia is the aggregate number of slaves belonging to one man. . . . The expression was invented by the Romans to designate a new social organism, the head of which had a wife, children, and a number of slaves under his authority and according to Roman law the right of life and death over all of them. (*Origin of the Family*)

It is not generally known that legal marriage was originally instituted for the propertied classes alone. The working people, sustained by their agricultural labor, simply mated as they had in the past, since in primitive society legal marriage was neither necessary nor desirable. But with the rise of urban life



The family as we know it today is neither “natural” nor eternal, but underwent a series of radical changes throughout history of class-divided society before coming into modern form. Under capitalism “each tiny ‘nuclear family’ must live or perish through its own efforts with little or no assistance from outside,” writes Evelyn Reed. Above, unemployment protest in Spain, where official youth joblessness is 53 percent and most aged 16 to 34 still live with parents.

and the church, marriage was gradually extended to the industrial population so that working men would be legally obliged to support wives and children who had no other means of support. . . .

At this present stage in the evolution of marriage and the family the original propertied basis of the institution is obscured by the fact that the poor and propertyless are just as much obliged to enter into the state of legal wedlock as the rich. Marriage had now become mandatory upon all classes. Failure to comply resulted in legal penalties of various kinds, not the least of which was branding the unmarried wife as a “prostitute” and her children as illegitimate. The unmarried mother and her children were treated as social outcasts, a fate that was regarded as worse than death.

This raises the question: How and why did an institution created by the wealthy class to serve its propertied interests become extended to the working masses which have little or no property? How did a *class* institution in its inception become a *mass* institution in its subsequent development? The answer to this must be sought in the capitalist mode of class exploitation.

Capitalism brought into being large-scale industry and along with it masses of the proletariat packed into factory towns and cities. This brought about a change in the economic position of women. So

long as agriculture and household crafts remained dominant in production, all the members of the family, women and children included, helped in the work that sustained the family and the community. Cooperative labor within the family framework was the characteristic mode of life on the farms, in the small shops, and in the home enterprises.

But with the rise of industrial capitalism, these productive families of the preindustrial era were displaced by the nonproductive consumer families of urban life. With the dispossession of masses of men from farms and small businesses, and their relocation as wage workers in industrial cities, women were stripped of their former place in productive work and relegated to breeding and housekeeping. They became consumers totally dependent upon a breadwinner for their support.

Under these circumstances somebody had to be saddled with the lifetime responsibility for taking care of dependent women and children. This was fixed, through universal marriage, upon the husbands and fathers, although no guarantees whatever were given to these wage earners that they would always have jobs or sufficient pay to fulfill their family obligations.

To conceal this economic exploitation a new myth was invented. Under church doctrine marriages were “made

in heaven” and had a divine sanction. But now there arose the propaganda that the family was a “natural” unit without which humans cannot satisfy their normal needs for love and children. Hence it became the “natural” obligation of the father and/or mother to provide for their loved ones—regardless of whether they were unemployed or incapacitated or even dead.

Here, then, is the answer to our first question, what kind of society requires the institution of marriage and the family and for what purposes. It is class society that needs it, to serve the purposes of the rich. In the beginning the institution served a single purpose, that connected with the ownership and inheritance of private property. But today the family serves a double purpose; it has become a supplementary instrument in the hands of the exploiting class to rob the working masses. Universal, state-imposed marriage became advantageous to the profiteers with the rise of the industrial wage-slave system. It relieved the capitalists of all social responsibility for the welfare of the workers and dumped heavy economic burdens upon the poor in the form of family obligations. Each tiny “nuclear” family must live or perish through its own efforts, with little or no assistance from outside.

One difference between factory exploitation and family exploitation is that the former is easily recognizable for what it is, while the other is not. You cannot convince wage workers that their economic dependence upon the bosses is either sacred or natural; on the contrary, they know they are being put upon, sweated, and exploited. But in the case of the family, Mother Nature and the Divinity are both conjured up to disguise its economic basis by declaring it to be both “sacred” and “natural.” In truth, the only thing sacred to the capitalist ruling class is the almighty dollar and the rights of private property. Under these conditions, the human needs for love, whether sexual or parental, are not benefited but twisted and thwarted by an institution which was not founded upon love but upon economic considerations.

June BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Women’s rights and the working class

The fight to defend a woman’s right to choose abortion — from El Salvador to Ireland to the U.S. and Canada — is a crucial issue for the working class.

Without the right to decide when or whether to bear a child, women cannot participate as equals in economic, social and political life. Without breaking down these barriers, the solidarity the working class needs to fight the bosses — and to wage a victorious revolutionary struggle to take power out of their hands — is impossible.

Since World War II, there have been significant changes in the relationship of class forces that advance the fighting capacity of the working class. Women in the U.S. and in other advanced capitalist countries have joined the workforce in ever greater numbers, boosting women’s self-confidence and expectations and transforming attitudes of their male coworkers.

Out of these social changes, women began to fight against second-class status, demanding equal pay and job opportunities. Their fight built on the shoulders of the massive proletarian battle to overthrow Jim Crow segregation and street mobilizations against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

The 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision and the 1988 Canadian Supreme Court ruling decriminalizing abortion registered these social advances.

In recent decades the working class, more than ever including both men and women, has grown substantially across the semicolonial world through relentless expansion of capitalist production and trade. Inevitably, this has led to growing working-class battles, among them fights for women’s rights.

The fight for a woman’s right to choose abortion has come to the fore from El Salvador and Uruguay to Indonesia, Ireland and the Middle East. More than one-quarter of the world’s population lives in countries where the propertied rulers severely restrict or completely bar abortion for the toiling majority.

Advances in the battle for women’s rights have been met with stiff resistance. In the U.S., attacks on access to abortion mean that in 87 percent of counties across the country there is no abortion provider. Opponents of women’s rights are pushing laws requiring humiliating, badgering “counseling”; waiting periods; invasive ultrasounds; and other obstacles.

To the bosses, gains for women’s rights are a threat, limiting the profits they reap from women’s oppression and their ability to foist the maximum burden for care of children and the elderly on the family.

The fight for women’s rights is, and will increasingly be, a central part of working-class struggles worldwide.

Protests in Turkey press for democratic rights

Continued from front page

dispersed through police repression. Tens of thousands turned up, despite a government ban.

Erdogan, who initially downplayed the demonstrations and has denounced participants as looters and terrorists, agreed on June 10 to meet with representatives from the growing protest movement.

But a day later riot police, using tear gas and water cannons, stormed Taksim Square to clear the area of banners and placards, bulldozing homemade barricades erected by protesters. The square is within Gezi Park, where demonstrations in Istanbul have been centered. Protesters encamped elsewhere in the park were not targeted.

So far, three people have died, more than 5,000 injured and thousands arrested since the protests began. The government says 600 police have been wounded.

The wave of demonstrations was sparked by a May 31 police attack against a peaceful occupation at Taksim Square by young people trying to reverse Erdogan’s plan to demolish part of Gezi Park to erect a new Ottoman-style building, complete with a shopping mall — a move seen by many as an affront to national patrimony.

Repression spurs resistance

New protests sprang up in response to the crack-down, drawing in tens of thousands. Demands broadened to include more democratic rights, protections for religious and national minorities and women, and even for Erdogan and other government officials to step down. The KESK (Confederation of Public Workers’ Unions) and DISK (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions) carried out strikes June 4-5 and joined demonstrations.

The forces and demands they put forward are disparate and include allusions to the diffuse “Occupy” protest movement of 2011-2012 in the United States and other countries.

There have been large demonstrations in Ankara, the capital, and more than 70 other cities. “At night, people who don’t come out to the protests go to their balconies, and bang pots and make noise, turn their lights off and on, to show their support for the demonstrators,” Semsä Yegin, a writer and translator, told the *Militant*.

“We are in Taksim Square for our own demands,” said Cafer Alp, an electrician and DISK representative, in a telephone interview from Istanbul. DISK is one of Turkey’s largest trade union confederations, organizing more than 400,000 workers with 17 affiliated unions, including the Textile Workers Union.

The Erdogan government has enacted legislation aimed at weakening the unions, Alp said, citing in-

creased use of subcontractors, working without job security, and measures that make it harder for unions to organize. “I haven’t seen such solidarity and unity in a long time,” he said. “It gives hope to workers and laborers.”

The unions are planning big demonstrations June 14 to commemorate a workers’ uprising in June 1970 and are trying to involve Kurdish organizations and environmentalists, as well as workers, in the actions.

The Erdogan government has responded with both repression and relaxation as it reacts to a new political situation in the country and broader region. Earlier this year, an agreement to end decades of conflict between the Kurdistan Workers Party and the Turkish government included limited, but unprecedented, language and other rights for Kurds, registering gains won by the oppressed Kurdish people and a political opening for toilers. In January thousands of books banned in Turkey over the decades were allowed to return to bookstore shelves, including *The Communist Manifesto*.

Erdogan, a former mayor of Istanbul, helped found the Islamist Justice and Development Party (AKP) in 2001. He became prime minister two years later, running on a moderate populist platform. His administration has focused on taking steps to advance Turkey’s bid to join the European Union and other steps in the interest of the propertied rulers, including an aggressive privatization program to reduce state involvement in basic industry, banking, transport and other economic sectors.

Turkey’s capitalist economy has improved somewhat in the last decade, with average per capita income tripling. Erdogan, now in his third term, takes the credit for the economic successes, which laid the basis for years of apparent political and social stability. This earned the new party support from a substantial section of the capitalist class in Turkey, as well as the title “model democracy” from the mouthpieces of their brethren in the imperialist nations of Europe and America.

The Islamist draping of the AKP forms the channel for its populism. In its appeals for support among the country’s Muslim majority, it has departed from the “secularism” of previous ruling parties, loosening anti-democratic laws aimed at those with religious beliefs, while at the same time imposing anti-democratic strictures in the name of Islam. These include rolling back certain bars on Muslim women’s right to wear head coverings, and on the other hand, limiting access to abortion and restricting alcohol sales.

Yasemin Aydinoglu in Elmira, New York, contributed to this article.

Workers make plans for socialist conference

BY LOUIS MARTIN

“I’m going to the conference to meet people from all over the world, to see what they’re thinking and find out more about what’s happening. From what I can see, workers are facing the same problems everywhere,” Gordon Rainer, a retired pipefitter from Madison, Ala., said, explaining why he decided to attend an active workers conference in Oberlin, Ohio, July 19-20. The event is sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party.

In 2011 and 2012, Rainer, a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, joined several demonstrations against Alabama state law HB 56, which further criminalized undocumented immigrant workers. That’s where he met *Militant* distributors from Atlanta and got a subscription.

More recently, Rainer joined two rallies by coal miners, in St. Louis and Henderson, Ky., protesting Patriot Coal’s union-busting assault on the United Mine Workers of America, their collective bargaining agreements and health care and pension benefits for retirees and their families. At the actions and door to door, he joined other supporters of the *Militant* introducing miners and their supporters to the socialist newsweekly.

The two-day conference will draw together members of the SWP and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom; supporters of the communist movement from around the world who help produce revolutionary literature from Pathfinder Press; and other workers who have been reading and helping to circulate the *Militant*. Many will bring past and recent experiences and lessons from labor battles, fights against police brutality and other social struggles they have been part of.

Presentations by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party, classes and discussions will address how workers and their allies can build a revolutionary movement of millions that can take power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers, establish their own government and use it to start building a new society based on solidarity, transforming themselves in the process.

Conference organizers urge participants who will be traveling by car or plane to arrive in Oberlin Thursday evening, July 18, in order to be ready and rested for the opening political presentation the next morning.

To find out more about the conference, call *Militant* distributors in your area (see page 8), or contact us at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com.

‘5 Days for the 5’

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Motion; and Stephen Kimber, author of *What Lies Across the Water*. The meeting, which also celebrated the birthday of Gerardo Hernández, was chaired by Cuban writer Miguel Barnet.

“We have to convince others about this injustice,” Kimber said. That includes letting people know concretely what the Five were doing to prevent violent attacks on Cuba, one of the aims of his book, he said.

At the Cuban Interests Section on the morning of June 5, a panel discussion took place with Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet and Alicia Jrapko in Washington, D.C., and, via a video connection from Havana, René González; Adriana Pérez, wife of Gerardo Hernández; and Kenia Serrano, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples.

“We’ve achieved a lot, receiving solidarity from every continent,” René González said. “Now we have to focus winning that solidarity in the United States.”

A closing event that night at the Bolivarian Hall of the Venezuelan Embassy was a plenary discussion of ongoing efforts in support of the international fight to free the Cuban Five.

Correction

In “Fight to Free Cuban 5 Pressed at Week of Activities in Washington” in the June 17 issue, the wrong name was given for the group organizing the “5 Days for the 5.” The group is the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5.