

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 36 OCTOBER 14, 2013

INSIDE

Paintings by Cuban 5 revolutionary depict experiences of Five in 'hole'

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FBI uses Kenya shooting to widen assault on rights

'Terror' probes target Somalis in Minneapolis



Reuters/Samrang Pring

Somalis in Minneapolis are bracing for new round of attacks on workers rights following massacre in Nairobi, Kenya. Above, protest May 16 against frame-up of two Somali women sentenced following day to prison terms of 20 years and 10 years for support to "terrorist" group.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

MINNEAPOLIS — In the wake of the mass killing by al-Shabab at a shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya, the Somali community here is bracing for a new round of stepped-up FBI spying and frame-ups, something they have been subjected to for more than six years. "We've ramped up our efforts," an unnamed "senior American official in Washington" told the *New York Times* Sept. 28.

Along with sending scores of FBI and New York Joint Terrorism Task Force agents to Nairobi, the FBI made

it clear that their probes into the Somali community in Minneapolis "is active and remains a priority," reported the Associated Press Sept. 24.

According to the U.S. Census, Minnesota has about 32,000 Somalis, the largest concentration in the U.S. Many here say the real figure is much higher. Similar FBI operations are

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Press downplays grinding war in Syria, ongoing US war threats

BY JOHN STUDER

At least 16 people were killed in a Syrian government airstrike Sept. 29 that hit a secondary school in Raqqa, a provincial capital under control of rebel forces. The aerial bombing was one of many recent attacks by forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad across the country — from Damascus to Deraa province in the south to Syria's northern border with Turkey — as the regime's army and paramilitary forces, backed by Hezbollah detachments and Iranian military advisers target working-class areas.

Meanwhile, the bourgeois press in the U.S. has dropped the Syrian civil war from its front pages as part of projecting a false image of a march toward peace amid tense negotiations between Moscow and Washington and ongoing imperialist threats of military intervention.

The U.S. has deployed five destroyers and an amphibious landing vessel carrying 700 Marines near Syria's Mediterranean coast, poised for possible attack. "The United States of America is prepared to use all elements of our power, including mili-

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'Militant' fights seizure of issue by Fla. prison authorities

BY JOHN STUDER

The *Militant* is fighting a decision by prison officials at Santa Rosa Correctional Institution in Milton, Fla., to impound one of its issues sent to inmates who subscribe to the socialist newsweekly.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, which agreed to represent the *Militant*, filed an appeal of the unconsti-

SUPPORT RIGHTS OF WORKERS BEHIND BARS!
Join the fight, see appeal p. 4

tutional move to Florida's Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee Sept. 23. On Oct. 2, the committee informed Benjamin Stevenson, staff attorney for the Florida ACLU, that they rejected the appeal and their written decision would be forthcoming.

On Sept. 9 the paper received a letter from the prison saying the July 22 issue was impounded on the grounds that a news article reporting on the initiation of a hunger strike by prisoners in California "presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system." The impoundment, moreover, the notice said, will be enforced throughout the Florida state pris-

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Gov't steps up criminalization of immigrant workers

BY SETH GALINSKY

The administration of President Barack Obama is stepping up measures — begun under previous administrations — to criminalize a section of the working class the government refuses to give "proper" papers to and make it harder for them to live and get jobs.

Last year Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducted 3,000 I-9 immigration audits of businesses, the largest number since the agency began what it called its "bold new audit initiative" in 2009 and 12 times higher than in 2007. Over the last four years, following the audits, the government has imposed more than \$100 million in fines on companies, jailed some supervisors and fired thousands

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Socialist Workers candidates build solidarity with workers' struggles



Militant/Mary Martin

Berry pickers and supporters picket Sakuma Bros. Farms in Burlington, Wash., Sept. 17 to protest company attempt to evict them during strike over wages, conditions and firing of union leader. Behind banner in middle is Edwin Fruit, SWP candidate for Seattle City Council.

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE — The Socialist Workers Party candidates in the 2013 elections here are urging working people and the labor movement to back workers' struggles in the region, from farmworkers in Burlington fighting for recognition of their union to longshore workers in the Northwest fighting port bosses' attacks to striking

Machinists in Auburn.

The socialist slate here includes Mary Martin for mayor; Edwin Fruit for Seattle City Council, Position 6; and John Naubert for Port Commissioner, Position 2.

In a Sept. 30 editorial, the *Seattle Times* declined to endorse the SWP Port Commissioner candidate, writ-

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Demonstrations in Greece protest fascist thuggery

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece — There is a sense of accomplishment among workers and youth here for having responded in sizeable demonstrations against the murder of anti-fascist hip-

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Countermobilize against fascists
No reliance on capitalist gov't
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Immigrant workers

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of workers who couldn't prove they are in the U.S. legally.

The agency plans to be able to conduct 10,000 annual audits by the beginning of 2014, according to the privately run website E-Verify and I-9 News.

The E-Verify program, which bosses use to tap into Homeland Security databases through the Internet to view the immigration status of potential hires, is skyrocketing. More than 475,000 companies now use E-Verify, up from 9,300 in June 2006. Already this year bosses ran the names of some 21.5 million people applying for jobs through the system.

Until recently most workers detained by the immigration cops were "voluntarily" deported, which meant they did not face felony charges if they returned to the U.S. But by 2011 most of those caught were deported under what ICE calls removals and face felony charges if they return. Immigration-related charges, mostly for "illegal entry" or "re-entry" now make up more than 40 percent of all federal prosecutions.

Big farm owners are complaining that the crackdowns have caused a shortage of farmworkers across the country, leaving as much as 10 percent of crops rotting in the fields and cutting into their profits.

When Obama and other backers of so-called immigration reform talk about bringing immigrants "out of the shadows" they are talking about the shadow the U.S. government created. That means decreasing the number of those deemed "illegal" by deporting them or pressuring them to leave the country while offering others an arduous path to some type of legal status.

The proposed immigration bill stalled

in Congress, if passed, would increase the number of immigration cops on the U.S.-Mexico border, make E-Verify mandatory for all businesses and mandate stepped-up felony prosecutions for immigration "violations."

To ensure that bosses still have a superexploitable labor force, it offers a "road to citizenship" that would require workers who apply to pay at least \$2,000 in fines and fees and pass background checks to qualify for a 10-year-long provisional status. It would increase the number of "guest worker" visas issued to guarantee cheap labor for agribusiness and industry. So-called guest workers are tied to a particular employer. If they quit or are fired they are subject to immediate deportation.

Car wash raid criminalizes workers

On August 17, ICE and other federal agents raided 16 Danny's Family Car Wash locations and offices of employment agency HR Betty in Phoenix.

ICE claims this wasn't "an immigration enforcement operation," but one targeting managers who were promoting "identity theft" by knowingly rehiring workers dismissed after an earlier I-9 audit. They detained 223 people, releasing 179 of those without papers. But the agency designated 30 workers for deportation on the pretext of "immigration violations."

"To say it's not an immigration raid is ridiculous," Carlos Garcia, lead organizer for Puente Arizona, told the *Militant* during an Oct. 1 phone interview. "It was meant to cause fear in the community. It criminalizes people for working." Puente Arizona is a community group that organizes against deportations of immigrant workers.



Puente Arizona

Aug. 19 news conference in Phoenix by anti-deportation group Puente Arizona outside ICE office protesting federal agents' raid at 16 Danny's Family Car Wash locations two days earlier.

"They tried to make it sound like they were going after managers," Garcia notes. "But the manager in a car wash is like those in a fast-food place, just regular working people who have to come up with a shift schedule at the end of the week. Now some of them are facing federal charges of fraud."

Relatives and friends of the workers gathered nearby during the raid in Phoenix and shouted encouragement to those detained. Later that day Puente Arizona held a rally outside the federal courthouse to denounce the raid.

"The next day the car washes were open and the owners were making money, while we had to campaign to get them to pay the wages owed to the workers who lost their jobs," Garcia said.

ICE did its last big factory raid in Postville, Iowa, in May 2008, detaining 389 workers, threatening many of them with identity theft charges. But workplace raids were increasingly unpopular. In many of the raids, U.S.-born workers hid their undocumented fellow workers or helped them escape. In response to Postville, Black and Caucasian workers joined protests in nearby Waterloo denouncing the raid and deportations. The U.S. government shifted to other means of controlling the flow of labor across the border.

The number of immigrants without government-issued papers fell to 11.3 million in 2009, down from a high of 12.2 million in 2007, according to the Pew Research Center, coinciding with the government crackdown and high

unemployment from the recession.

The last time the federal government did a big immigration raid in Arizona was in 1996 or '97, Garcia said. "But Sheriff Joseph Arpaio has done more than 80 raids since 2008, when the federal government authorized him under the 287(g) provisions," which allow local cops to enforce federal immigration laws.

"It's really negative that both the Democrats and Republicans are having a competition on who does this better," Garcia said. "We don't have any friends in the two parties in this situation."

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

A necessary debate

by Mary-Alice Waters

"To think that a socialist revolution in the U.S. is not possible you would have to believe not only that the ruling families of the imperialist countries and their economic wizards have found a way to 'manage' capitalism. You would also have to close your eyes to the spreading imperialist wars, civil wars, and economic, financial, and social crises we are in the midst of."



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THE MILITANT

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Militant/Félix Vincent Ardea

Some 10,000 rally in Montreal Sept. 14 against Charter of Quebec Values.

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Socialist Workers campaigns

Continued from front page

ing “factory worker John Naubert is a self-described communist more laser focused on labor issues than the Port’s broader issues.”

The farmworkers, organized as Familias Unidas por la Justicia (Families United for Justice), have been on strike five times since July. They are fighting to reverse the firing of Ramón Torres, president of the workers’ committee, and have launched a boycott of Sakuma products. They have won some wage raises and improvements in living conditions in the labor camps and stood firm in face of the company’s scare tactics, including threats to evict them from housing camps and harassment by security guards.

“These farmworkers need a contract and a raise, and they have launched a fight to win them,” said a Sept. 28 campaign statement released by the SWP candidates here. “The situation they face is not vastly different from millions of other working people in the U.S. and internationally — from fast-food workers here to garment workers in Bangladesh and Cambodia. They deserve the support of workers everywhere.”

Fruit joined the picket line of Machinists Local 79 on strike against Belshaw Adamatic in Auburn Sept. 30. Workers there have been following the berry pickers’ fight. Shop steward Cliff LaPlant spoke at the farmworkers’ march and rally Sept. 14.

“I support the farmworkers,” striker Eddie Souvannasoth told Fruit. “To go on strike without an official union shows they are really together.”

“We call for a big raise in the minimum wage,” the candidates’ statement said. “We also call for building a movement to fight for a massive federally

funded jobs program to put millions to work. We call for organizing and unionizing all workers regardless of birthplace. We say no raids, no deportations, no E-Verify. No criminalization of undocumented workers!

“We call on all working people to stand together with the workers and farmers of Syria, backing their fight for political space and against the assaults of the murderous Assad regime,” the statement said. “At the same time, we stand with the entire Syrian people, even under the Assad government, against any U.S. intervention in Syria!”

“I agree with your campaign plank for a federal jobs program and a \$15-an-hour minimum wage,” Susanna Rodriguez, an unemployed legal worker, told Fruit and a team of supporters campaigning in her neighborhood Sept. 28. “I am really concerned about the question of a living wage. Working people should have a right to live in Seattle, but the high rents and foreclosures are making this more and more difficult.”

She signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*, the campaign newspaper.



New York: ‘Workers say jobs and housing most pressing needs’

Destiny Reed, 18, a student at Baruch College, welcomed Dan Fein, SWP candidate for New York mayor, when he met her campaigning in the Dyckman Houses apartment complex in Upper Manhattan. Reed is an intern at an assemblyman’s office as part of a college course.

“The most pressing problems workers coming into the office raise are jobs and finding a place to stay,” she said. The most the staff is able to do is “distribute applications for shelters” with no



Militant/Lea Sherman

Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, discusses jobs, housing with Destiny Reed, 18, at Dyckman Houses apartments in Upper Manhattan Sept. 29.

follow-up.

“We campaign for a massive public works program to put millions thrown out of work back on the job, building things workers need,” Fein said. “Workers need to form their own political party and fight for power. What have we gotten from the Democrats and Republicans? With Obama zero jobs. Bloomberg zero jobs. Cuomo zero jobs.”

— Lea Sherman



San Francisco: ‘Didn’t know about the Cuban Five before’

“I didn’t know about them before,” Terri Cotton, pointing to a *Militant* article on the case of the Cuban Five, told Joel Britton and Willie Cotton, supporters of Eric Simpson and Gerardo Sánchez, SWP candidates for San Francisco city attorney and treasurer respectively, when they visited her to discuss

the campaign and get her renewal for the *Militant*.

Terri Cotton, a longtime dental assistant who is “between jobs,” said she likes the paper’s “coverage of working peoples’ struggles, everyday people.” It “gets to the bottom of what is really going on in the world. It doesn’t Mickey Mouse things, but tells it like it is.”

— Joel Britton



Miami: ‘They slash the workforce, expect us to speed up’

“In my job, like in many other places, they are slashing the workforce while expecting those remaining to speed up and work harder,” Marlo Shaw, a window clerk at the post office, told Tom Baumann, SWP candidate for mayor of Miami, and campaign supporter Dean Hazlewood Sept. 19. They met her sitting outside her home in the Liberty City neighborhood with her sister, Elena Shaw.

“I’ve seen the *Militant* at work,” Marlo Shaw said. “When an issue comes in we can’t deliver, we keep it in the break room and discuss the articles. It keeps you informed about what’s happening to other working-class people.”

“Workers have to fight if we want to change society,” Baumann said. “In order to fight effectively, we need to organize, like the fast-food workers walking off the job.”

We also discussed the need to cut through social divisions in society. Elena Shaw agreed, saying that at her job in a Dots clothing store a lot of the workers from Latin America are afraid to speak up, fearing retaliation.

They got a copy of the campaign paper and thanked us for stopping by.

— Dean Hazlewood

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Cuba and Angola

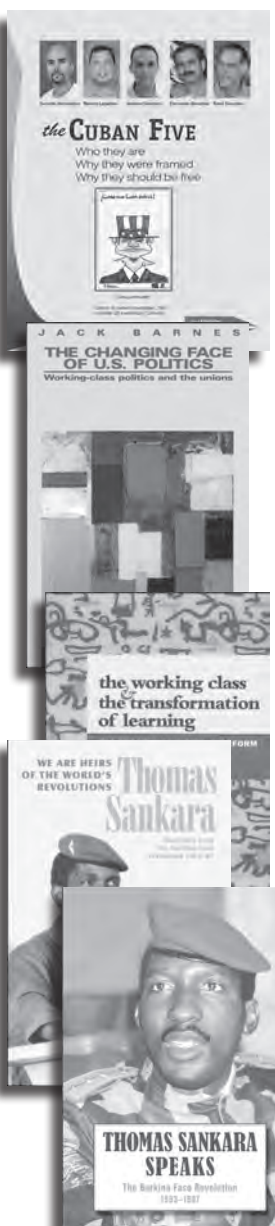
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by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others
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‘Militant’ fights censorship

Continued from front page

on system — “in all major institutions, work camps, road prisons, and forestry camps” — where 32 workers behind bars receive the *Militant* each week. Three additional inmate subscribers in Florida are locked up in federal prisons.

“Impoundment of *The Militant* violates the free speech rights of both *The Militant* and its subscribing inmates,” says the appeal, filed by Stevenson. The *Militant* “requests the impoundment be reversed ... and that all impounded issues be immediately delivered to their subscribers.”

“First Amendment free speech rights mean both the right to say and to hear, to publish and to receive news,” Stevenson said in a Sept. 27 phone interview.

Prison officials claim the July 22 issue’s front page article — “Calif. Prisoners Launch Hunger Strike Against Solitary Confinement, Abuses” — “encourages hunger strikes.” The short news item reported basic facts on the protest and quoted a family member of a hunger striker.

“The article is written for a general audience and for wide distribution and nowhere does the writer ‘encourage’ anyone to do anything, including inmates to engage in hunger strikes,” the appeal states. The hunger strikes in California, as well as those at the U.S. prison in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, the appeal says, “were matters of public interest and general conversation over the past summer.”

The hunger strike protests “were widely reported by national and local television networks, cable news providers, and by major news magazines and newspapers, including *Miami Herald*, *Pensacola News Journal*, *Tallahassee Democrat*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *New York Times*, *Time*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *USA Today*,” it says. Copies of the coverage of the California prison hunger strike from many of these news media, including two Op Ed pieces from the *New York Times* urging support for the hunger strikers, were attached to the appeal.

There is no evidence, the appeal says, that the Florida Department of Corrections censored any of these publications because of their coverage of the same topic.

“Moreover, this edition of *The Militant* was sent to subscribers in forty-four other prisons,” the appeal says, “including subscribers in several Florida prisons, the California prison Pelican Bay SHU (which was one subject of the article) and the federal prison in Florence, Colorado.” None of these other prisons rejected or impounded the issue.

The impoundment “violates not only

free speech guarantees, but also due process and equal protection safeguards,” which amounts to an unconstitutional act of political censorship, the appeal says.

The fact that the paper, whose masthead describes it as “a socialist newsweekly published in the interests of working people,” was singled out, the appeal says, is “explicable only by Santa Rosa CI’s hostility to the proclaimed or perceived political viewpoint of *The Militant*.”

The appeal includes two declarations from *Militant* editor Doug Nelson documenting the more than 80 subscribers in prisons around the country and the fact that the paper has received no other notice of the issue being impounded or rejected at any of them. Among the paper’s subscribers in U.S. prisons are 15 in California where the hunger strike took place.

In addition to the cited front-page article, the impounded issue included a full-page interview with René González, reprinted from *Escambray*, a weekly paper published in Cuba, entitled “In U.S. Prison System, Just Going to Trial Earns You Respect.” González, who won his fight to return to Cuba in May, is one of five revolutionaries — known internationally as the Cuban Five — who were framed up and imprisoned in the U.S. for their communist views and activities in defense of the Cuban Revolution. Among the paper’s subscribers behind bars today are the other four — Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and Fernando González.

Stevenson told the *Militant* that the Florida ACLU has been involved in other efforts to defend the rights of



Top, Reuters/Max Whittaker

Top, protest July 30 at state Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., by family and supporters of inmates during 23rd day of hunger strike against solitary confinement in California prisons. Bottom, July 22 issue of *Militant*, impounded by authorities at Santa Rosa Correctional Institution in Florida for reporting on California hunger strike. *Militant* is fighting decision.

inmates. “We successfully sued the Santa Rosa County sheriff to end a ‘post-card only’ mail policy that denied prisoners the right to mail or receive letters,” he said. “And we are working to end a similar policy in another county.”

“This is a fight for the rights of working people, those inside and outside prison walls,” Nelson said. “We’re proud of our growing subscriber base among

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JOIN THE FIGHT

Help get out the word. Print out copies of this article from www.themilitant.com and get them around.

Send a check or money order to The Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Prisoners Rights Fight.”

Thought control act used against opposition in SKorea

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

On Aug. 28 federal police agents in South Korea raided the homes and offices of 18 members of the Unified Progressive Party, including National Assembly Rep. Lee Seok-ki. Three party officials were arrested and charged with “conspiracy to commit a rebellion and violating the National Security Law.” A week later Lee was also arrested after the National Assembly voted 258-14 to strip him of legislative immunity.

The thought-control National Security Law bans activity that, in the eyes of government officials, “prepares, conspires, propagandizes or instigates a rebellion against the state.” The law has been in place since it was enacted in 1948 in response to massive struggles by workers and farmers for

unification of Korea and against the U.S.-rigged elections that imposed the hated Syngman Rhee regime in the South.

This is the first time a person has been indicted under the NSL for “conspiracy for rebellion” since 1980 when former President Kim Dae-jung was arrested.

The charges against Lee are based on a report by an informer who secretly recorded parts of a meeting of a local branch of the Unified Progressive Party attended by some 130 people in May. The National Intelligence Service claims Lee convened a meeting of the “Revolutionary Organization” to prepare an uprising in the event of war with North Korea.

A statement by the Unified Progressive Party denies the charges, saying Lee spoke at a party meeting where participants had group discussions on how to “realize peace on the Korean Peninsula.”

South Korean authorities have stepped up use of the NSL. In 2010, 151 people were interrogated on suspicion of violations, up from 39 in 2007, reported the *New York Times*. During the first 10 months of 2011, police deleted 67,300 web posts for “praising North Korea and denouncing the U.S. government,” a sharp increase from 14,430 posts in 2009.

The National Intelligence Service has “invested about 100 agents for three whole days and searched my office and home, and couldn’t come up with one piece of evidence supporting ‘plotting

of rebellion’ charges,” Lee said Sept. 4 in an address before the National Assembly. “Moreover, the only evidence which the [National Intelligence Service] and police together found in their joint search in connection with my aide was a pair of T-shirts.”

The ruling New Frontier Party has filed a motion to expel Lee from the National Assembly, even before a trial has taken place.

Lee and other supporters face separate charges of violating the NSL for singing the song “Red Flag” at a meeting last year. “The song was introduced in Korea in the 1930s and sung as a protest song among the anti-Japanese independence fighters,” according to a Unified Progressive Party statement.

In mid-August, the Seoul Central District Prosecutors’ Office detained four leaders of the South Headquarters of the Pan-National Alliance for Korea’s Reunification for allegedly violating the NSL for praising North Korea. The group has been in existence since 1993. In July government authorities shut down major sections of the group’s website, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

In another development, the Seoul Central District Court Sept. 12 cleared four leaders of the Alliance for the Liberation of Labor of charges of creating an anti-government organization in violation of the NSL. The four had been indicted by prosecutors in 2012 for “indirectly calling for a violent revolution,” reported the South Korean newspaper *Hankyoreh*.

For further reading ...

... “Better sex offenders programs, better substance abuse programs, better job training programs for prisoners — these reforms are all designed to do the same thing as gangs in the prison yard and corruption in the cell blocks. Everything is organized to turn cons against one another, to reinforce the worst, dog-eat-dog values of bourgeois society, to differentiate the incarcerated. The fight of the working class is the opposite.” ...

— Jack Barnes from *Capitalism’s World Disorder*

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Greece anti-fascist protests

Continued from front page
hop artist Pavlos Fyssas by supporters of the Golden Dawn party.

The governing political parties have responded with a crackdown on Golden Dawn that seeks to curb the party’s growing influence and organized brutality for now, while at the same time twist anti-fascist sentiment into a bludgeon against the political rights of working people.

In the early morning of Sept. 18 Fyssas, 34, who is a member of the metal workers union, was stabbed to death by a self-professed Golden Dawn cadre as nearby police looked on.

Amid the deep economic and social crisis here, the ultrarightist party — which in 2012 won 21 of 300 seats in Parliament — has been recruiting from demoralized layers of small businesspeople, professionals, workers and lumpen elements. Over the last couple years, attacks by Golden Dawn goons targeting immigrants and workers has become increasingly bold.

The other bourgeois parties in Parliament have publicly shunned Golden Dawn (it was not invited by New Democracy to join a governing coalition). But the government has, until now, largely turned a blind eye to assaults and killings by the party’s fascist street goons.

In the fifth mass protest a largely young crowd of some 10,000 people turned out Sept. 25 to demonstrate outside Parliament. The anti-fascist action was called by the General Confederation of Labor of Greece (GSEE) and Civil Servants’ Confederation (ADEDY).

“These protests in Keratsini and elsewhere have surprised the government and it is worried,” Dimitris Vamvakidis, 30, an unemployed stage light technician, told the *Militant* at the demonstration. “The protests have been useful, but they are not large enough.”

“The government and much of the press are pushing the line that society must condemn both ‘extremes’ that ‘function outside the rules of the constitution,’” said Vamvakidis. “They are trying to put an equal sign between fascist violence and the protests and strikes that have taken place against the assaults on our rights and living standards. This is a dangerous attempt at violence-baiting opponents of the government.”

In public statements Sept. 18, Chrysanthos Lazaridis, adviser to New Democracy Prime Minister Antonis Sa-

maras, criticized both Golden Dawn and Syriza for political violence and suggested the latter was not part of the “constitutional axis.” Syriza is a left Social-Democratic coalition and the main opposition with the second-most number of representatives in Parliament.

Under pressure to act against Golden Dawn and its base of support among the police forces, the government dismissed seven senior police commanders, including the chief of the special forces and internal security. Two other police chiefs resigned.

Cops back fascists

“The whole police force is infected with fascist supporters,” said Holger Tzchaschel, a school teacher here who is originally from Germany.

“There is a long historic continuity that Golden Dawn is part of,” Dimitris Papachristos, a veteran of the 1973 student uprising against the military dictatorship that ruled Greece at the time, told rally participants. “They trace their roots back to the Metaxas dictatorship in the late 1930s, to the Nazi collaborators during the occupation in World War II, to the death squads in the 1940s and 1950s and to the military dictatorship” in the 1960s and 1970s.

In the wake of the protests, some 22 Golden Dawn members were arrested Sept. 28-29, including its leader Nikos Michaloliakos and deputy leader Christos Pappas, following a series of raids on homes and party offices. Four of the party’s legislators were indicted Oct. 1 on charges that included participation in a criminal organization, assault, money laundering and attempted and voluntary homicide based on alleged links to the killing of Fyssas and an immigrant earlier this year.

At a private meeting of the American Jewish Committee in New York Sept. 30, Prime Minister Samaras announced that the governing coalition will press legislation aimed at “eradicating” Golden Dawn. These include new laws denying state funding to political parties whose leaders are charged with crimes, stricter penalties for crimes motivated by racial hatred and laws targeting hate



Militant/Georges Mehrabian
Athens, Greece, Sept. 25 protest against Sept. 18 killing of Pavlos Fyssas by Golden Dawn. Banner reads “People forward on the front line, fascism gets broken through class struggles.”

speech.
In April, Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Nils Muiznieks urged the Greek government to ban Golden Dawn.
“I feel positive about what has happened. There is more willingness to participate in the struggle against the fascists,” Giorgos Pissanos, a student at Athens Polytechnic University who lives in the Keratsini neighborhood where Fyssas was killed, told the *Militant* Oct. 1.
“At the same time, I don’t trust the government in their newly found anti-fascist guise,” Pissanos said. “Their aim is to push people off the streets. Banning Golden Dawn would have a temporary, superficial effect and will turn the fascists into heroes. And the government could turn around and use the same laws against the workers movement.”

Company safety slogan should be ‘don’t report injuries’

“Enclosed is \$10 in blood money, a ‘safety bonus,’” wrote Maggie Trowe from Des Moines, Iowa, in a note sent with a donation to the Socialist Workers Party Capital Fund. In the rest of her letter, printed below, Trowe explains the circumstances behind the bonus at the plastics factory where she works.
“Two weeks ago the supervisor read a report on ‘knife safety’ in the morning huddle, including pointing out that used blades should be disposed of in special containers. I pointed out that there are no such containers and that the company should provide them. The practice now is to throw blades in the trash, making it likely someone will get badly cut.
“Last week they gave me the \$10 gift card as a ‘reward’ for my suggestion. But there are still no used blade dispensers. I told several co-workers I’m giving this blood money to build the revolutionary working-class movement.
“Now the company wants workers to suggest a ‘safety slogan.’ It probably should be, ‘Don’t report injuries, it makes our insurance rates go up.’”
Boss bribes in the form of safety, attendance, contract-signing and holiday bonuses used to pressure workers to accept speedup, wage cuts and concession contracts — “blood money” — is a political cornerstone of the SWP’s Capital Fund, which helps finance long-range work of the party. Trowe’s donation was one of four “blood money” contributions sent in September, totaling \$278. To make a contribution, write or call the *Militant* distributor nearest you, listed on page 8.

— EMMA JOHNSON

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 14, 1988

Readers who caught some of the coverage of the recent Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, will certainly have noted that the games seem to have reached an all-time record in lavish spectacle, media hype, and displays of U.S. imperialist arrogance.

An important political statement, however was being made by the government of Cuba and several other countries by their absence from the games.

Cuba decided in January not to send athletes to Seoul in order to protest the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and South Korean government’s refusal to allow North Korea to cosponsor the games.

The IOC’s decision to schedule the games in Seoul was made to build up the authority and prestige of the repressive U.S.-backed South Korean government and further isolate and stigmatize North Korea.



October 14, 1963

Berman Gibson, leader of the striking coal miners of Eastern Kentucky, will be a guest speaker at the Militant Labor Forum Oct. 18. Gibson is making a national tour to rally support for the defense of himself and five other Hazard, Ky., miners indicted under the Federal Train Wreck Statute.

Gibson has proclaimed his innocence and states that he and the others are victims of an attempted frame-up “by the coal operators and their political friends.” He described his arrest as follows:

“On Monday, June 17, FBI agents and state police entered my home without search warrants, searched the premises, read my mail, removed some items of personal property and then arrested me on a charge of conspiring to blow up a bridge. At the same time, five other men from our picket movement were picked up on the same charge.”



October 15, 1938

Joseph Stalin is heading toward a pact with Adolf Hitler, if he can get it.

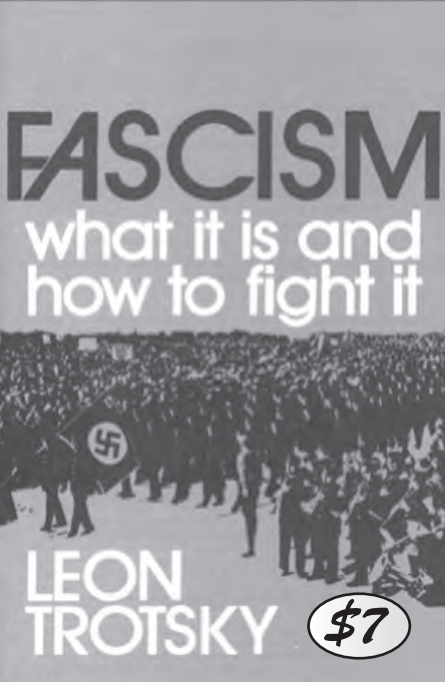
Britain and France formed a compact with Germany directed against the Soviet Union.

Stalin’s answer is apparently going to be an attempt to form a compact with Germany directed against Britain and France.

To out-woo Chamberlain and Daladier, Stalin will offer Hitler a more enticing marriage portion — the produce and the markets of the Soviet Union.

This is the new turn in Soviet diplomacy that has now come clearly into view.

Predicted in these columns last week by Leon Trotsky, it was confirmed in the *New York Times* on Oct. 11 by Walter Duranty, apologist extraordinary and special-pleader-in-chief for the Kremlin and the GPU.



Pathfinderpress.com

Garment workers press for higher wages in Cambodia

6,000 face lockout by factory bosses after strike

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Workers at one of Asia's largest garment factories, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, are involved in a drawn-out battle with the company over demands for higher wages and against union-busting moves that include use of military police to intimidate workers before they strike and lock them out when they tried to return to work.

Singapore-owned SL Garment Processing, with nearly 6,000 employees, produces for H&M, Gap and Levi's. Workers went on strike Aug. 12 over eight demands, including raising the minimum wage from \$80 to \$150 a month, a \$3 lunch stipend, removal of military police outside and inside the plant and that the company cut all ties with company advisor and shareholder Meas Sotha, whom workers say brought in plainclothes military police.

On Aug. 27, some 4,000 workers marched through roadblocks and rallied outside the Ministry of Social Affairs, demanding the removal of cops from the factory premises. Three days later workers ended the strike following a meeting between union representatives, the company and the Phnom Penh municipal government.

On Sept. 4 the company fired nearly 700 workers. The following day 4,000 marched to Phnom Penh City Hall to demand government intervention, after which the government ordered SL Garment to reinstate all the workers.

"The company promised to reinstate the workers, but it never happened," Kong Athit, vice president of the Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Union, said in a phone interview from Phnom Penh Sept. 29. "Instead the company locked the doors and shut down production."

The Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Union is the biggest of three in the plant and has more than 2,500 members, according to Athit.

Worker Ouch Noeun told the Sept. 24 *Cambodia Daily* that more than

100 military cops stood guard outside the factory and many were inside.

"On Sept. 27 workers marched to the residence of Prime Minister Hun Sen to press for a solution," Athit said. "But they were stopped by police lines and couldn't get there. The Apparel Workers Union later met with representatives for the prime minister's office, but it didn't resolve anything."

Company officials paint a different picture to the press. "Because of the union's endless strike at SL, we are unable to keep the shipment date," a company representative told the Sept. 20 *Phnom Penh Post*. Levi's confirmed to the paper that it currently



Reuters/Samrang Pring

Police block garment workers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from marching to Prime Minister Hun Sen's house Sept. 27 in fight for higher wages at massive SL Garment Processing factory.

has no orders with SL Garment.

"If they just removed the cops and got rid of the shareholder who brought them in, we could move towards a so-

lution," Athit said. "But they don't do this despite losing a lot of money because they want to bust the union and teach the workers a lesson."

Press downplays Syria war, ongoing US war threats

Continued from front page

tary force, to secure these core interests in the region," President Barack Obama said in his Sept. 24 address to the United Nations General Assembly.

More than 115,000 people have been killed in Syria — an estimated 5,000 in September alone — since widespread anti-government demonstrations swept the country in 2011, on the heels of the massive mobilizations that pulled down military dictatorships in Tunisia and Egypt. The Assad regime has "disappeared" some 10,000 political activists and systematically punished workers' districts in an effort to close down political space and crush resistance.

The Assad regime is based on a narrow layer of mainly Sunni capitalist families based in Damascus and Aleppo. It is defended by an army and paramilitary National Defense Force whose officer corps and soldiers are disproportionately composed of members of the Alawite Muslim minority, largely from the country's Mediterranean coast and Damascus — some of the poorest areas in the country.

The number of refugees driven from their homes is approaching 7

million, close to one-third of the population. More than 2 million have fled the country altogether.

Amid this backdrop, leaders from Washington, Russia, France, and other imperialist nations have taken the podium at the opening sessions of the U.N. General Assembly to argue that a tentative deal for identification and quarantine of Syria's chemical weapons cache heralds a new turning point toward peace in the region.

Reactionary al-Qaeda forces

Over the past six months the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), an armed group backed by al-Qaeda, has been reinforced by fighters from outside the country. They have more and more been turning their focus on seizing territory from opposition forces, as opposed to the regime. In September, ISIS seized Azaz, near the Turkish border, killing several fighters from the Free Syrian Army. Near Aleppo, Syria's largest city, ISIS launched a campaign it called "Expunging Filth," aimed at FSA forces there.

In some areas in northern and western Syria liberated from control by Assad's forces, local councils of workers, farmers, small merchants and others have been formed to run public services and civic affairs. Members have been targeted by both the Assad regime and al-Qaeda-linked militias.

In mid-August ISIS drove anti-Assad militia forces out of Raqqa. City residents took to the streets to protest the group's assaults on religious and political opponents. For example, after ISIS thugs burned down the Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation, dozens of young people gathered in front of the church and marched through the city Sept. 25, calling the jihadist group "counterrevolutionary" and chanting "Christian and Muslim are one."

Washington, Paris

and other imperialist powers on the one hand and Moscow on the other are trying to pull together a Geneva "peace conference" in November with representatives of the Assad government and opposition forces.

Washington's goal is to cobble together a new capitalist regime based on elements in the current government, excluding Assad, with some representatives of the bourgeois opposition that will be more amenable to imperialist interests in the region. Moscow seeks to keep the Assad regime, a key ally in the Middle East, in power for as long as possible.

The bourgeois forces that control the self-proclaimed opposition government in exile, which calls itself the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, has been losing support. Eleven rebel groups announced Sept. 24 they were breaking from the exile forces and their military command, stating they could only be represented by people who have "lived their troubles and shared in what they have sacrificed."

On the heels of these developments, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said he doubted any peace conference could be convened by November.

Washington, in cooperation with the governments of Saudi Arabia and Qatar, continues to back the National Coalition. In a glaring understatement, unnamed U.S. officials told Anand Gopal of *Harper's Magazine* that "they prefer to deal with known quantities ... rather than the grassroots opposition."



Demonstration in Raqqa, Syria, Sept. 25 condemning vandalism of Catholic church by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria group.

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Art by Cuban 5 revolutionary shows experience of 5 in ‘hole’

Encounters with ‘justice’ system resonate with millions

BY SETH GALINSKY

The international fight to free the Cuban Five — Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and René González — has garnered growing support among working people, unions, defenders of political rights and prominent individuals in the U.S. and worldwide. Among the arsenal in the defense campaign for the five Cuban revolutionaries, who were framed up and railroaded to jail by the U.S. government more than 15 years ago, is the most recent collection of paintings by Guerrero depicting the Five’s first 17 months of imprisonment awaiting trial in Miami, including six months in solitary confinement.

This year supporters of the Five have organized conferences, meetings, panel discussions, rallies and book presentations, including most recently around publication of *What Lies Across the Water* by Stephen Kimber. In addition to these events, showings of political cartoons by Hernández and paintings by Guerrero at art galleries and other venues have helped reach broader audiences.

The facts of the case — the work they were doing to prevent violent attacks against Cuba and supporters of

the Cuban Revolution, the attempts of the U.S. government to break them, their refusal to plea bargain and the conditions of their imprisonment — resonate with working people in the U.S., millions of whom have their own experience with the capitalist frame-up and lockup “justice” system.

It’s these themes, in particular the fight for dignity of workers behind bars and those who support them, that comes through in the vivid images of Guerrero’s collection of 15 watercolors, titled “I Will Die the Way I Lived.”

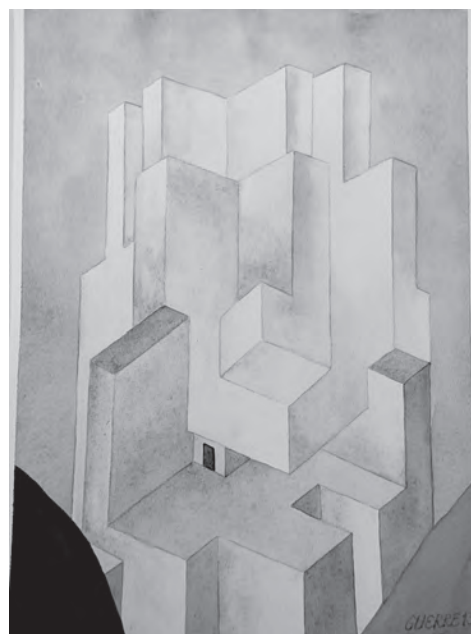
Guerrero, who learned to paint in prison, named the exhibit after a line taken from the 1992 song “El Necio” (the stubborn fool) by Cuban singer/songwriter Silvio Rodríguez. The song was seen as a defiant response to those, particularly outside the island, who were warning that the revolution was on its last legs and that its supporters should give up the fight and accept a capitalist future in Cuba after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the abrupt loss of 85 percent of the foreign trade. “Those of us who didn’t know the words to the emblematic song of Silvio, El Necio, learned them,” Guerrero writes in an introductory note on the paintings and their initial days in prison.

In the introduction, he says that the Five plan “in the near future to enrich this work with writings, poems and other art by us Five and thereby make known, with these memories, that first period of lockup, which we could characterize as the roughest and cruelest.”

The watercolors give a sense of the routine harassment faced from prison guards and officials, the lack of priva-



“Numbers,” left, and “The Second Hole,” two of 15 new watercolors by Antonio Guerrero, one of Cuban Five, that depict the first 17 months revolutionaries were locked up in Federal Detention Center in Miami. The second hole refers to small room with door they were brought to in shackles on occasion and under onerous restrictions to meet with lawyers ahead of trial.



cy, the arbitrary searches of cells, the shackling of prisoners every time they are taken to court, the brutality of solitary confinement. But they also show the resilience and creativity of workers behind bars, from the board games the Five invented to the elaborate methods of communication and exchange they learned from fellow inmates to bypass the draconian prison rules and maintain a sense of social solidarity.

In his note about “The Number,” Guerrero describes how “they don’t only take away your freedom, they turn you into a number ... they never ask your name.” But the paintings bear witness to the fact that prison authorities utterly failed in their attempts to break the spirits of the Five.

In “The Air Vent,” Guerrero shows the vents the Five used to communicate with each other when they were in adjoining cells while in solitary confinement. “I used to read my new poems to my brothers this way,” he says.

Gerardo Hernández and Ramón Labañino, in five articles in the online magazine CubaDebate, commented on the paintings.

“We spent about six months totally alone in our cells,” Labañino writes. “And it was only after a lot of legal controversies with our jailers through our lawyers and internal requests that we succeeded in them putting us two to a cell. Of course since we are five, one of us was always alone.” They rotated every three weeks.

“After 17 months we were finally able to join the general population,” Labañino writes in a description of how they fought to get out of the hole.

Prison ‘sports’

Commenting on paintings showing games they created to pass the time, Hernández describes how they experimented with ingredients until they found the right mixture of bread crumbs and toothpaste to create usable dice and how they hid them from the guards. One night when Hernández and Guerrero were sharing the same cell, cockroaches ate the dice, the subject of “The Cockroach Cell.” Those cockroaches must have had “the best breath of any animal species,” Hernández says.

Hernández also comments on Guerrero’s painting “Fishing,” which shows a weight and a line device invented by prisoners to pass magazines, coffee and other items from cell to cell. Using the line “is a ‘sport’ that requires a lot of practice,” Hernández notes. “But when you have to spend 24 hours a day

in a cell the size of a bathroom, sometimes without even a book to read, there’s lots of time to ‘invent.’”

An exhibit of the original 15 watercolors opened in Havana Sept. 11. High-quality reproductions of the paintings were shown for the first time at Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C., as part of Five Days for the Five, a weeklong activity organized by the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5 in June. They were also on display at Obsidian Arts in Minneapolis in September.

“When you look at all the works Antonio has done since he began painting in prison, these are really the first ones done from his own imagination,” Alicia Jrapko from the International Committee, told the *Militant*. “They’re very moving.”

Those interested in organizing an exhibition can contact the International Committee at info@thecuban5.org to get the files, Jrapko said.

“The paintings don’t have to be exhibited in an art gallery,” she said. “They can be displayed anywhere people will see them.”

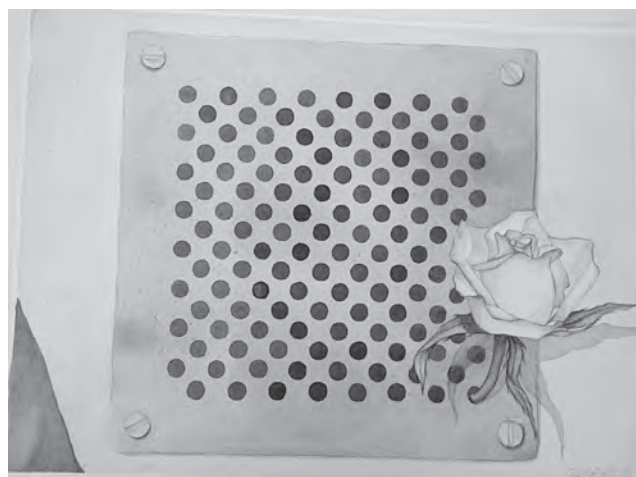
Sales strong of ‘The Cuban 5’ at Paris festival

BY DEREK JEFFERS

LE BOURGET, France — Pathfinder supporters sold 110 copies of the French edition of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* at the Fête de l’Humanité in this Paris suburb during the Sept. 13-15 weekend. A couple of hundred thousand people took part in the event, organized annually by *l’Humanité*, the daily newspaper of the French Communist Party. Forty-seven copies of the book on the five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the U.S. were sold to publishers. Others were bought by participants at the official Fête bookstore and at the stands of two Cuba solidarity organizations, France-Cuba and Cuba Si.

Each year, event organizers name pathways running through the large fairgrounds after political figures. In another sign of growing solidarity with the Five here, one area this year was named “The Five Cubans of Miami Square.”

Pathfinder supporters also sold 57 other books, including eight copies of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, as well as three subscriptions to the *Militant*.



“The Air Vent” shows how Five communicated when held in adjoining cells during six months of solitary confinement.

Who are the Cuban Five?



Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the operations and plans of Cuban-American paramilitary groups based in southern Florida. These rightist 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 Brothers to the Rescue aircraft 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. He was allowed to return to Cuba in May this year, halfway through a three-year term of supervised release.

‘Don’t vote Democrat or Republican, don’t sell your soul’

By Any Means Necessary, which contains speeches and interviews by Malcolm X from the last year of his life, is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for October. The piece below is from a presentation at the second rally of the Organization of Afro-American Unity July 5, 1964. Copyright © 1970 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MALCOLM X

At the same time that so much hullabaloo was being made over the passage of the civil rights bill, if you read closely between the lines, a little black boy in Georgia was found hung on a tree. A 1964 June lynching. Nothing was said in the paper, no hullabaloo was made over that. But here’s a little fourteen-year-old black boy in Georgia lynched, and to keep you and me from knowing what was taking place, they showed another picture of a little black boy letting a white man cut his hair.

This is the trickery that you and I are faced with every day in this society. They on the one hand try and show us how much progress we’re making. But if we look through all of that propaganda we find that our people are still being hung, they’re still disappearing, and no one is finding them, or no one is finding their murderers.



Photos by Robert Parent

Malcolm X speaks in Harlem, New York, at June 28, 1964, founding meeting of Organization of Afro-American Unity, a political group open to all African-Americans for united struggle against racist discrimination.

And at the same time also that so much hullabaloo was being made over this new civil rights legislation, a bill went into effect known as the no-knock law or stop-and-frisk law, which was an anti-Negro law. They make one law that’s outright against Negroes and make it appear that it is for our people, while at the same time they pass another bill that’s supposedly designed to give us some kind of equal rights. You know, sooner or later you and I are going to wake up and be fed up, and there’s going to be trouble. ...

The only way you can strike at him, you have to have political power. How do we get political power? We have to organize the people of Harlem in a door-by-door campaign, I mean door by door, house by house, people by people, person by person, and you have to make them feel so ashamed that they’re not registered they won’t even come out of the house. We have to create an atmosphere in Harlem—and when I say Harlem, the greater New York area—in which every black man in the greater New York area will feel like he’s a traitor if he’s not a registered voter. His ballot will be like a bullet.

One or the other, we’re at a time in history now where we want freedom, and only two things bring you freedom—the ballot or the bullet. Only two things. Well, if you and I don’t use the ballot and get it, we’re going to be

forced to use the bullet. And if you don’t want to use the ballot, I know you don’t want to use the bullet. So let us try the ballot. And if the ballot doesn’t work, we’ll try something else. But let us try the ballot. And the only way we can try the ballot is to organize and put on a campaign that will create a new climate.

The Organization of Afro-American Unity is planning a campaign that will enable us within a matter of weeks to map out the city and touch every person in it who looks like us. There’s only one thing we want them to do: register. That’s all. We’ll make it easy for them. Not register as a Democrat or a Republican, but as an independent. Don’t sell your soul. ...

There are more than 10,000 people unemployed in central Harlem and there is not one employment office to accommodate them. Listen to this. The area of highest unemployment in the city is Harlem. There’s not one employment office in Harlem. There are employment agencies. But there’s a difference between an agency and an employment office. An agency sells you a job. If they get you a job, you’ve got to give them four months’ pay. You work for them. That’s slavery, brothers.

Why isn’t there an employment office in Harlem if Harlem has the highest rate of unemployment? Can you see the conspiracy?

What the man does is, he sends you

to the agency; you pay for your job, which means that if he gives you the job you’ve got to give him a cut for two months. As soon as your two months’ work is up, the man fires you. This is a game, it’s a conspiracy, between the employer and the employment agency. How many of you know that this is not true? This is true. They sell you a job. Then after they sell you a job, they fire you and sell that same job to somebody else. ...

QUESTION: Brother Malcolm, do you think it’s wise that we should make it publicly known that possibly guerrillas are going to Mississippi or other places so the white man can be prepared—

MALCOLM: He’s already prepared, brother. He’s already prepared. Sometimes it is good. If the United States government doesn’t want you and me going into Mississippi organizing our people into the type of units that will enable them to retaliate against the Ku Klux Klan and create a very nasty situation in this country for the whole world to see, then the government should occupy the state of Mississippi.

SAME QUESTIONER: Well, don’t you think the element of surprise would be better able to get the same thing done?

MALCOLM: Before the Chinese came across the Yalu during the Korean war, they told Uncle Sam, don’t come another step, or else we’re going to do such and such a thing. They were so confident in their ability to take on anything Sam had, they said don’t come another step or we’re going to do thus and so.

Brother, let me tell you about a Klansman. He’s a coward. He can be thoroughly organized and if you go like that [*stamps his foot*], he’ll cut out. That’s why they’re hiding beneath those sheets. You never read where a Klansman does anything, you read where the mob does so and so. Because they’re cowards. Any time you get black people to take a stand against those sheeted so-called knights, you’ll get rid of them overnight. And I for one would announce yes, we are doing it, and get some black people and go on down there. And I don’t think we’d be the loser, no.

In fact, I know we wouldn’t.

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EDITORIAL

Only working class can lead anti-fascist fight

The *Militant* stands with workers and youth in Greece who have taken to the streets protesting fascist murder and thuggery in a series of mobilizations, several called by union federations. These actions point in the direction of the forces and methods needed to fight Golden Dawn, whose actions are aimed at recruiting initial cadre for future battles between capital and labor.

The fascists claim to have an answer to lead the masses out of the crisis created by capitalism, a crisis that is still in its initial stages but has hit hard in Greece. They pin the blame on immigrants and other scapegoats. Their aim is to lead a demoralized and disoriented middle class, segments of the working class, and de-classed lumpen elements to build a movement as the crisis and class struggle deepen that will be able to crush the organizations of the working class and perpetuate capitalist rule.

For some time, the leading capitalist parties in Greece have turned a blind eye to growing attacks by Golden Dawn goons against immigrants, fighting workers and unions.

The anti-fascist street demonstrations and growing outrage has brought enough social pressure to bear that the ruling powers feel pressed to act.

In their moves against Golden Dawn, however, the ruling politicians seek to impose new restrictions on political rights as part of a crusade against fascism and other forms of “extremism” that threaten “democracy.” The rulers have no solution to the economic and

social crises rooted in a slowdown of capitalist production and trade on a world scale. They are sharpening their weapons in anticipation of class battles to come.

Under current conditions, Golden Dawn doesn’t comfortably fit for the capitalists within the “respectable” realm of bourgeois parliamentary politics. But the bosses will still use and nurture them outside it.

In a 1939 article, Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian Revolution, explained why he opposed “laws against one or another extremist ‘party.’”

“Under the conditions of the bourgeois regime, all suppression of political rights and freedom, no matter whom they are directed against in the beginning, in the end inevitably bear down upon the working class, particularly its most advanced elements. . . . The workers must learn how to distinguish between their friends and their enemies according to their own judgment and not according to the hints of the police.”

At each stage, class-conscious workers must meet the rise of fascist forces by seeking to draw in the broadest possible layers of workers and their anti-fascist allies, while advancing the political understanding, confidence and combativity of working people along the line of march toward wresting political power from the capitalist exploiters.

We must not rely on the capitalist government, but look to countermobilize against fascists murderous terror through the organization of mass actions — and workers’ defense guards to defend the ranks of labor and all those targeted by the fascist goons.

LETTERS

Solitary aims to smother souls

Once again I am here to commend you on bringing attention to California’s SHU inmates as well as all statewide hunger strikers!

The beauty of nationwide publicity is that our country is forced to face the realization that something dark and twisted exists: Indefinite Solitary Confinement. It operates with underground policies and one goal: to smother out the souls, spirits, voices and identities of those who possess ideas and aspirations for change.

Thank you.
July 8th hunger striker
A prisoner
California

P.S. Please place me on your mailing list to receive the *Militant*.

Support for U.S. prisoners

I would greatly appreciate if you would continue sending me the *Militant*. I look forward to reading each issue and sharing them with others in my unit.

What has been noted a lot here

are the articles about the high number of police killings and about the Special Housing Units in California prisons and the inhuman treatment prisoners endure in long-term isolation. We *tautoko* [support] the actions these men are taking in their hunger strikes. We wish them all the very best!

I have just finished reading *Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sundance* by Leonard Peltier. I was deeply saddened by this story about him and many others from the American Indian Movement who set out to help, support and protect their people at the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975. And

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

the injustice, exploitation and fabricated evidence against our brother that followed, and his incarceration ever since. It was his birthday Sept. 12, and I know he is not well, so I wrote a letter of support to him from us, the Maori people of the long white cloud.

Do any of the many political prisoners in U.S. prisons have a chance of ever being released? I do think René González must count himself very lucky indeed.

I hope the *Militant* never stops highlighting issues about all political inmates in U.S. prisons and about socialist struggles all around the world.

Kia Kaha [stay strong] *Militant!*
A prisoner
New Zealand

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

FBI assault on rights

Continued from front page
targeting other cities with large Somali communities, including San Diego and Columbus, Ohio.

Al-Shabab, an Islamist armed group linked to al-Qaeda, has claimed responsibility for the killing of nearly 70 people in the Westgate mall in Kenya.

Al-Shabab’s stated aim is to overthrow the U.S.-backed Somali government, but has increasingly turned to random violence against workers and others in Kenya and other countries the group claims back the regime in Mogadishu.

The foreign minister of Kenya, Amina Mohamed, said in a Sept. 23 interview with PBS NewsHour that “two or three Americans” were among the attackers, and speculated Minnesota might be one of the places they came from.

For the past several years the FBI has led an all-out assault on the democratic rights of Somalis. This includes wide-ranging interrogations of area Somalis about the “disappearances” of more than 20 youth, who the bureau alleges have gone to fight for al-Shabab in Somalia. Al-Shabab was designated a “terrorist organization” in 2008 by the U.S. government.

Code-named “Operation Rhino,” government agents “have been conducting a long-running, international investigation into a pipeline that supplies men from Minneapolis to the Somalia-based foreign terrorist organization al-Shabab,” reports the website of the Offices of the United States Attorneys. In addition to the FBI, the investigation includes the Counterterrorism Section of the Justice Department’s National Security Division, as well as intelligence agencies overseas.

Last year FBI Supervisory Special Agent E.K. Wilson said the operation “is one of the largest counterterrorism campaigns since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States by al-Qaeda,” and that the operation “has received attention at the highest levels of the U.S. government, including the White House.”

The authorities have used many tools in their efforts: frame-up charges and intimidating prison sentences, FBI raids of money-transfer businesses, secret FBI informers, deportations, grand jury investigations, wiretaps authorized under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act secret courts, and placing people on government “no fly” lists

Last May, Amina Farah Ali and Hawo Mohamed Hassan, two Somali women from Rochester, Minn., convicted of sending “material aid” — clothing and funds they raised going door to door — to al-Shabab, were sentenced to 20- and 10-year prison terms.

Over a 10-month period the FBI wiretapped some 30,000 phone calls and searched the two women’s computers and emails, homes and trash. Hundreds of area Somalis attended the trial to show their solidarity. When the verdict was handed down, they were outraged at the sentences.

In the sentencing hearing, Chief U.S. District Judge Michael Davis “veered into territory not often heard during sentencings,” the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reported. He pointed at one of the women and said, “I have not heard her say she loves America.”

In the past year the same judge sent nine more Somalis to prison on frame-up charges. Much of the evidence in these cases came from informers working for the FBI or witnesses who faced similar charges and gave testimony in exchange for lesser sentences.

The *Times* reported that since the “siege in Nairobi, officials from the Department of Homeland Security, who set up community outreach programs with Somali-American communities after 2007, have increased their activities.” In several U.S. cities the FBI is reviewing what they call “high profile” cases.

Seizure of ‘Militant’

Continued from page 4
workers behind bars and we have been getting a good response to our Prisoners’ Fund, which raises money from readers that helps ensure anyone in prison who wants to receive the paper can do so, regardless of their financial situation. We are going to fight to beat back the Florida prison authorities’ political censorship and efforts to deny inmates getting the news they want.”

The paper is appealing for support and funds from readers to pursue the fight, said Nelson.

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