

# THE MILITANT

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**North Carolina school board rescinds ban on 'Invisible Man'**  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 39 NOVEMBER 4, 2013

## Subscription campaign on schedule in first week

BY EMMA JOHNSON

*Militant* supporters around the world are slightly ahead of schedule with 334 subscriptions sold in the first week of the fall subscription and books campaign. The goal is to sign up 2,500 new and renewing subscribers by Dec. 10.

Ned Measel reported from Washington, D.C., that *Militant* supporters visited a picket line of International Longshoremen's Association members at the Port of Baltimore who had idled the port in a two-and-a-half day strike before they were ordered back to work.

Three strikers bought subscriptions, two of them with *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, one of the Pathfinder books on special with a subscription. (See ad below.) The three were particularly interested in the article on the fight to defend prisoners' rights and

**Continued on page 3**

## Strikebusting by transit bosses kills two workers

Bay Area Rapid Transit pressed scab training at expense of safety



Reuters/Stephen Lam

Picket line at Bay Area Rapid Transit terminal in Oakland, Calif., Oct. 18, during four-day strike.

BY JEFF POWERS

SAN FRANCISCO — Two employees of Bay Area Rapid Transit were killed Oct. 19 by bosses' reckless drive to get trains running in the midst of a four-day strike by 2,300 station agents, train operators, clerical workers, mechanics and maintenance workers over company demands for substantial work rule changes.

The walkout ended Oct. 21 when BART and officials from Amalgamated Transit Union Local 155 and Service Employees International Union Local 1021 announced a tentative agreement. Its details have not yet been released. Workers will soon vote on the pact.

Laurence Daniels, 66, a contrac-

tor, and Christopher Sheppard, 58, a member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3993 were struck by a train

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## 'Militant' victory part of fight against prison, other censorship

BY JOHN STUDER

"Florida prison board reverses decision to ban newspaper over hunger strike coverage," the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press headlined an article on its website Oct. 16.

**SUPPORT RIGHTS OF WORKERS BEHIND BARS!**  
 Join the fight, see appeal p. 7

The story reported on the victory won by the *Militant* when Florida state prison officials informed the paper it overturned its Sept. 5 decision to bar the paper's July 22 issue that reported on 30,000 California prisoners launching a hunger strike in July.

The *Militant's* victory is part of the broader fight against censorship. A

**Continued on page 7**

## Dominican court strips citizenship rights from many of Haitian descent



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Oct. 17 protest in N.Y. against court decision stripping many Haitian-Dominicans' citizenship.

BY SETH GALINSKY

"Whoever is born here is Dominican," Lumatiel Michel, 58, told the *Militant* by phone Oct. 21 from Paraiso de Barahona, a town in

the Dominican Republic not far from the border with Haiti. "They can't just take away someone's nationality from morning to night."

He was referring to the Sept. 23 decision by the Constitutional Court

**Continued on page 9**

## SWP candidates discuss need for fighting course to confront crisis

BY JANICE LYNN

ATLANTA — "I am running for mayor to talk with working people about the crisis we face and what is the road to resolving the attacks on our wages, jobs, working conditions and cuts in social services," John Benson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta, told an audience of 50 at an Oct. 14 candidates' meeting organized by the Washington Park Neighborhood Association. "I will join in your fights, I will join your picket line. I will help organize a fight

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**Liberals silent on killing of Miriam Carey: Capitol Police receive standing ovation**  
 — See article p. 2

## Congress increases powers of president in end to shutdown

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

It was working people who were hardest hit during the 16-day government "shutdown," resulting from factional disagreements in Congress. But the most significant consequence

**Continued on page 6**

Fall 'Militant' subscription campaign				
Oct. 12 - Dec. 10 (week 1)				
Country	quota	sold	%	2,500
<b>UNITED STATES</b>				
Lincoln	22	4	18%	
Seattle	160	29	18%	
Chicago	180	32	18%	
Atlanta	160	28	18%	
New York	380	48	13%	
San Francisco	180	20	11%	
Los Angeles	160	17	11%	
Boston	65	6	9%	
Houston	110	9	8%	
Twin Cities	135	11	8%	
Des Moines	160	13	8%	
Miami	95	7	7%	
Omaha	220	13	6%	
Philadelphia		4		
Washington		5		
Total U.S.	2027	246	12%	
<b>PRISONERS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20%</b>	
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>				
London	150	20	13%	
Manchester	100	28	28%	
UK Total	250	48	19%	
<b>CANADA</b>				
CANADA	110	15	14%	
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>				
NEW ZEALAND	80	12	15%	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>				
AUSTRALIA	75	10	13%	
Total	2557	334	13%	334 Should be
Should be	2500	313	13%	

### Also Inside

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# Liberals go silent on killing of Miriam Carey by cops in DC

## Capitol Police receive standing ovation by Congress

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — Nearly 100 family and friends turned out for a funeral held at the Grace Funeral Chapels in Brooklyn Oct. 15 to pay their final respects to Miriam Carey.

The 34-year-old African-American dental hygienist was gunned down by Capitol Police and Secret Service agents in Washington, D.C., Oct. 3 after she hit a barrier near a White House checkpoint with her 1-year-old daughter in the back seat. Shortly afterward the cops who killed Carey received a standing ovation by members of Congress inside the Capitol.

Within days the cold-blooded killing was dropped from most of the media, particularly the liberal press. And the callous and cowardly praise of the “protectors” by Democratic and Republican legislators was swept under the rug, with the exception of sharp criticism

by conservative publications, such as the *Washington Times* and *American Spectator*. Individuals and organizations supporting the Barack Obama administration — from Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton to the American Civil Liberties Union — were largely silent.

A police affidavit said the incident “was initiated by the woman making a U-turn at a White House security checkpoint,” reported the *Washington Times*. Carey then “began to flee the checkpoint and struck a bicycle rack put in her path by an officer with the U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division. The officer was then struck by the bike rack and knocked to the ground and Ms. Carey fled in the car.”

Officers fired several rounds at the moving vehicle. At least 20 cop cars took off after her in a 1.7 mile high-speed chase. Sharpshooters rushed into position along the route. She then crashed into a guard shack and cops shot volley after volley through the windshield and car door on the drivers side with obvious intent to kill.

Carey had no weapons, explosives or any other threatening items in her car. Instead, the cops’ search turned up a passport, social security cards for her and her daughter, a lease agreement for a New York City apartment and an uncashed check for about \$1,800.

Since the birth of her daughter, Carey was diagnosed with postpartum depression, but medical personnel said she was not a danger to anyone.

During the pursuit of Carey, cops put



Miriam Carey

## THE MILITANT

Join the int’l fight to free the Cuban Five!

The ‘Militant’ champions the international fight to free the five Cuban revolutionaries — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González — working-class fighters framed up by Washington on conspiracy charges 15 years ago.



Militant/Beverly Bernardo  
Exhibit showing Gerardo Hernández’s political cartoons in Montreal Oct. 4.

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306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

## Malala Yousafzai confronts Obama on drone attacks



White House Photo by Pete Souza

In an Oct. 11 meeting at the White House, Malala Yousafzai, second from right, did not shy away from telling President Barack Obama what she thinks about U.S. drone strikes killing fellow Pakistanis in her country. The 16-year-old was shot in the head by the Taliban in Pakistan last year for defending the right of girls to go to school.

“I also expressed my concerns that drone attacks are fueling terrorism,” said Yousafzai in a statement after the encounter. “Innocent victims are killed in these acts, and they lead to resentment among the Pakistani people.”

Seated on couch are First Lady Michelle Obama and daughter Malia. The White House has not reported Obama’s response to Yousafzai.

“They thought that the bullet would silence us but they failed,” Yousafzai said during a CNN interview with Christiane Amanpour broadcast Oct. 13. “The terrorists thought that they would change my aims and stop my ambitions but nothing changed in my life except this. Weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, fervor and courage were born.”

— SETH GALINSKY

the Capitol on lockdown and ordered everyone to “shelter in place.” House members and senators, along with their staff, locked themselves down in their offices. Tourists along Pennsylvania Avenue were herded onto side streets.

After the killing, Senate Sergeant of Arms Terrance Gainer praised the small army of cops and federal agents, telling the Associated Press, “The milieu under which we’re operating ... is an anti-terrorism approach.”

“The cops could have shot out her tires,” Tracy Clark, a worker living in D.C., told the *Militant*. “They are supposed to look first before shooting. They could have killed that baby in the cross-fire.” Standard police protocol forbids firing at a moving vehicle.

Similar breaches on the White House or Capitol grounds are not uncommon. But the panicked and murderous response to this most recent incident is un-

precedented. This past June, for example, Code Pink activist Diane Wilson, in a protest backing hunger strikers at the U.S. Naval prison in Guantánamo Bay, jumped over the fence and was arrested on the White House lawn. In September 2011 an individual who had climbed the fence and was running across the White House lawn was taken into custody by Secret Service agents. No shots were fired.

“She was a beautiful girl, always had a cheerful disposition in my office,” Steven Oken, the dentist for whom she worked for eight years, told the *New York Times* at an Oct. 14 wake.

“You all know my sister was not some crazy person,” said Valarie Carey, one of Miriam Carey’s sisters, reported the *Times*. “So don’t rush to judgment.”

Glova Scott in Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.

## The Militant

Vol. 77/No. 39

Closing news date: October 23, 2013

Editor: Doug Nelson

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

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

Business manager: Lea Sherman

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)

Website: [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above

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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  
against press censorship by prison authorities.

As in the last two drives, a prisoners' quota is on the scoreboard. Three workers behind bars renewed their subscriptions the first week. "I really appreciate the topics you provide on global issues. Please continue sending the paper because issues like the ones you print most times are not available to us through local news here in the facility," wrote an inmate from Florida.

Jeremy Anderson, a barber in Stockbridge, Ga., was one of the more 150 subscribers who got *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* during the last drive. When Susan LaMont and Sam Manuel visited him Oct. 13, he decided to renew because "it is important for working people to stay updated about what's really going on in the world and to see behind the media's lies."

Naomi Craine reported from Miami that Valencia Miller, a cook, signed up for a subscription Oct. 16, after distributors knocked on her door in the Liberty City neighborhood.

"If it was a real government shutdown, they wouldn't keep taking out my taxes," she said, pointing to how "they pick and choose what gets shut down. Working people are paying the price for it regardless of what happens in the budget negotiations."

Supporters in New Zealand campaigned in Auckland's Takanini neighborhood Oct. 20, wrote Annalucia Vermunt.

"We sold three introductory subscriptions and got a good response as we raised the need to fight for workers' interests, especially the fight for jobs."

Rohit Shanker, a sheet-metal worker,

said before his current job he worked as a temp and "the agencies don't treat you well." He asked supporters to come back and a couple of days later he signed up for the subscription.

Unlike the capitalist media moguls who seek to increase their readership to boost their profits, the *Militant* seeks to help build a revolutionary working-class movement. Readers can use each issue to win solidarity for workers and farmers in struggle, get clarity on political questions that affect the working class and reach out to others who are beginning to look for ways to respond to the assaults on the rights and standard of living of working people.

Help expand the readership of the *Militant*. See page 8 for a distribution center near you or contact the *Militant* directly at 306 W. 37th St., 10th Fl. New York, NY 10018 or call (212) 244-4899.



Rohit Shanker, right, a sheet-metal worker, signs up for *Militant* subscription when Baskaran Appu campaigns in Takanini neighborhood in Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 20.

## Pussy Riot political prisoner: 'Treat us like human beings'

BY EMMA JOHNSON

After threatening to go on a hunger strike for the second time, Nadezha Tolokonnikova, imprisoned member of the political punk band Pussy Riot, won her demand to be transferred to a new prison. Authorities announced Oct. 18 that she would be moved from Penal Colony No. 14 in Mordovia, Russia, where she has been serving a two-year sentence since August last year.

Along with fellow band members Maria Alyokhina, 25, and Yekaterina Samutsevich, 31, Tolokonnikova, 23, was convicted of "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred" after the group performed a brief "punk prayer" Feb. 21, 2012, in Moscow's Russian Orthodox Cathedral of Christ to protest

political repression and policies of the government of President Vladimir Putin. Samutsevich received a suspended sentence at the appeal hearing, Oct. 10, 2012.

Tolokonnikova began a hunger strike Sept. 23 to protest prison conditions.

"My brigade in the sewing shop works 16 to 17 hours a day, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.," Tolokonnikova wrote in a Sept. 23 five-page open letter detailing prison conditions. "At best we get four hours of sleep a night. We have a day off once every month and a half." Those who don't make production quotas are beaten and humiliated, she said.

On Aug. 30, Tolokonnikova asked the deputy head to grant the prisoners eight hours of sleep. "Over the course of

the following weeks, life in my unit and work brigade became impossible.

"I demand that we be treated like human beings," wrote Tolokonnikova. "I will not remain silent, resigned to watch as my fellow prisoners collapse under the strain of slavery-like conditions."

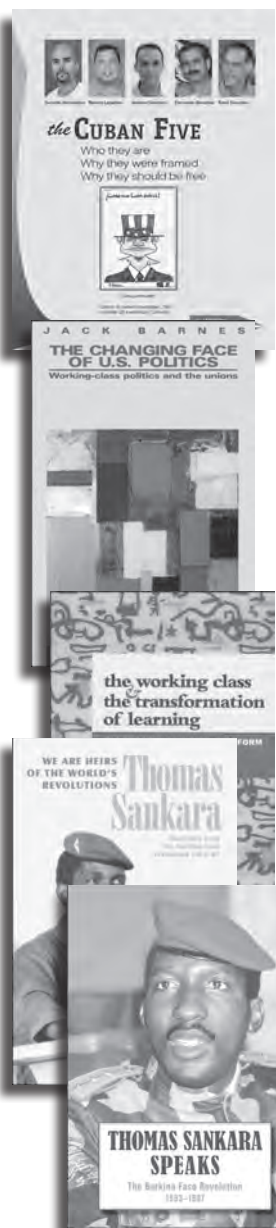
After a weeklong hunger strike she was moved to a hospital. Two days later she suspended the strike.

On Oct. 17 she was returned to the colony and the following day announced another hunger strike. The authorities that day agreed to transfer her.

Alyokhina went on an 11-day hunger strike in June, protesting conditions in her colony in Perm. She was subsequently moved to another prison closer to Moscow.

Both Tolokonnikova and Alyokhina have had parole appeals denied. Their prison terms are up in March 2014.

## Special offers with 'Militant' subscription



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Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free  
**from pages of the 'Militant'**  
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See distributors  
on page 8



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**by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others**  
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## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

**San Francisco**  
BART Workers Strike — Challenges Facing All Labor. Fri., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

### ILLINOIS

**Chicago**  
The Only Working-Class Alternative in Illinois. Meet the Socialist Workers Party Candidates. Speakers: Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate; and Dennis Richter, SWP candidate for governor. Sat., Oct. 26. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 806 W. Washington Blvd., Room 202. Tel.: (312) 455-0111.

### NEW YORK

**Manhattan**  
Defend the Rights of Workers Behind Bars. Speakers: Doug Nelson, *Militant* editor; Ralph Poynter, Lynne Stewart Defense Committee; Dayann Molina McDonough, campaign leader Justice for Kyam Livingston. Fri., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor (use north set of elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland**  
The Pornographication of Politics: Why the Working Class Has No Interest in Capitalist Political Scandals. Speaker: Mike Tucker, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 1, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. 4/125 Grafton Road. Tel.: (09) 369-1223.

# 32 years in US jails, fight to free Oscar López wins new support

BY SETH GALINSKY

Support is growing for the fight to free Oscar López Rivera, a Puerto Rican independence fighter who has been jailed in the U.S. for more than 32 years—12 of them in solitary confinement. At the beginning of September the AFL-CIO convention in Los Angeles approved a resolution calling on President Barack Obama to grant his “immediate and unconditional release.”

“It passed unanimously,” Alejandro Molina, co-coordinator of the National Boricua Human Rights Network and a leader of the fight to free López, said by phone Oct. 14. The resolution was submitted by the Puerto Rico Federation of Labor and the Office and Professional Employees International Union.

In Puerto Rico even leaders of political parties opposed to independence for the U.S. colony have called for the release of the 70-year-old political prisoner. “And we now have six Nobel laureates from around the world backing this fight,” Molina said.

## Who is Oscar López?

The son of a small farmer, López grew up in Puerto Rico. When he was 14 he moved with his family to Chicago. López was drafted into the U.S. army in June 1965 and sent to Vietnam as an infantryman from 1966 to ’67.

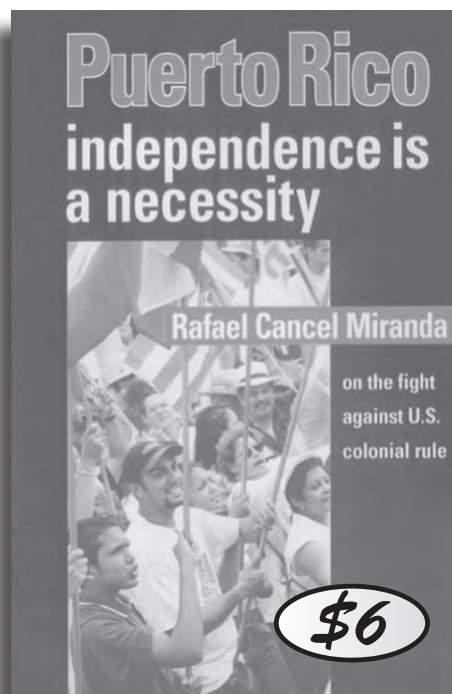
The 1959 Cuban Revolution, the rise of the Black struggle in the U.S., and the movement against the war in Vietnam inspired working people in Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans in the U.S. to fight against national oppression and colonization.

Upon his return to Chicago from Vietnam, López joined struggles for bilingual education and against police brutality and began to support independence for Puerto Rico. He led protests against hiring discrimination at construction and utility sites.

López was a founding member in the early ’70s of the Committee to Free the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists, political prisoners in jail for decades: Lolita Lebrón, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irving Flores, Andrés Figueroa Cordero and Oscar Collazo.

**“Our people are becoming aware of their own strength, which is what the colonial powers fear”**

—Rafael Cancel Miranda



pathfinderpress.com

Under pressure from the international campaign and the resurgent independence struggle, President James Carter ordered the release of Figueroa Cordero in 1977 and Lebrón, Cancel Miranda, Flores and Collazo in 1979. The fight for their release was given impetus with the Vietnamese people’s 1975 victory over U.S. imperialism and the 1979 revolutions in Grenada, Nicaragua and Iran.

## Grand jury fishing operations

In the mid-1970s, following the bombing of banks and businesses with investments in Puerto Rico that the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) took credit for, the U.S. government stepped up its probes and harassment of Puerto Rican political activists. Grand jury fishing expeditions were convened in New York and Chicago in 1974 and 1976.

In 1980, 10 people were arrested and accused of belonging to the FALN. López, accused of being a leader of the group, was arrested the next year. They were framed up and convicted on charges that included seditious conspiracy “to oppose by force the authority of the government of the United States” and to bring about the political independence of Puerto Rico by force and violence; possession of unregistered firearms, “interference with interstate commerce by threats or violence” and “interstate transportation of a stolen vehicle.” Demanding they be recognized as prisoners of war, they refused to participate in the court proceedings. In a series of trials they were given stiff sentences.

By charging conspiracy, the prosecution did not have to prove any violent acts took place. López was not accused of carrying out a single bombing or act of violence.

“The evidence will not reveal any-

## Capitalist crisis batters US colony of Puerto Rico

BY SETH GALINSKY

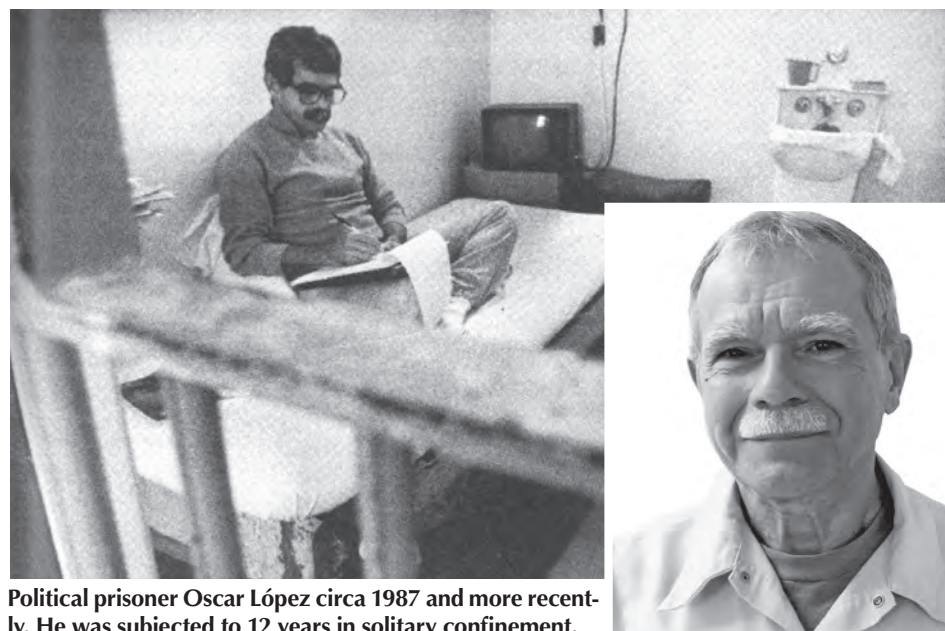
The government of Puerto Rico is on the edge of defaulting on its debt payments as the island is battered by a growing economic and social crisis made more acute by its subjugation as a U.S. colony since 1898.

Puerto Rico, with 3.7 million residents, owes \$87 billion to holders of government bonds. According to the Oct. 7 *New York Times*, for the last six years the Puerto Rican government has been issuing hundreds of millions of dollars of new debt just to maintain minimum payments on older debt. The island’s gross domestic product has shrunk by nearly 14 percent since 2006.

Until six months ago, Puerto Rico was referred to as the “belle of the bond markets” by propertied U.S. ruling families cashing in on high interest payments. As a “U.S. territory,” Puerto Rican bonds are tax-exempt. Enshrined in the island’s U.S.-imposed constitution is the promise that bondholders will always get paid first.

The *Times* reports that Puerto Rico has now been shut out of the bond market and has been taking out short-term loans and using bank credit at ever higher rates of interest.

Puerto Rico’s governor, Alejandro



Political prisoner Oscar López circa 1987 and more recently. He was subjected to 12 years in solitary confinement.

thing about the colonial case of Puerto Rico,” López told the court at the beginning of his trial. “We will not hear anything regarding militarism in my country or how my country was conquered by force.

“The evidence will not tell you anything regarding the racist organizations created by the FBI and the CIA who have killed labor leaders and *independentistas*,” he said, referring to murders by rightist paramilitary groups and the cops on the island in the 1970s.

López was convicted and sentenced to 55 years in prison. In February 1988 he was framed up on charges of conspiracy to escape and sentenced to an additional 15 years in jail.

“For 12 years,” his daughter Clarisa López told the *Militant* last year, “my father was kept in isolation. He was kept in his cell 23 hours a day.”

In his book *Between Torture and Resistance*, López describes the brutal and arbitrary conditions he has faced during much of his incarceration: handcuffed and shackled for every visit to the doctor; strip-searched when he left his cell; and at times woken up every hour for “night count.”

Since being transferred to Terre Haute Federal Corrections Institute in 2008 his conditions have improved. He is still required to report to prison

guards every two hours, although according to Molina, he is usually allowed to sleep undisturbed through the night.

López would have been released from prison in 2009 if he had accepted a 1999 parole offer from President William Clinton to him and 13 other Puerto Rican political prisoners. But he refused because two prisoners, Carlos Alberto Torres and Haydée Beltrán, were not included. They have since been released.

In February 2011 the U.S. Parole Commission denied parole to López and ruled that he cannot reapply until 2023.

“Oscar López should not be in prison,” Cancel Miranda said in a phone interview Oct. 19. Those who have used violence to maintain Puerto Rico as a colony should be in prison, “not those who have fought for it to be liberated.”

### March to Free Oscar López Rivera

Sat. Nov. 23 11 a.m.  
New York City

Community Coalition for the Freedom of Oscar López Rivera  
Info: 347-254-2413, 718-398-2581,  
646-765-8604

García Padilla, denied that the government is near bankruptcy. “We will do everything, and I repeat, everything that is necessary for Puerto Rico to honor all its commitments,” he said in an Oct. 15 conference call with investors.

García has continued in the footsteps of previous Gov. Luis Fortuño, who laid off as many as 30,000 government workers before losing the election in 2012.

García has raised the retirement age to 67 from 60 for newest workers, increased from 8 to 10 percent what government workers pay into their retirement funds, increased taxes, jacked up sewage rates by 67 percent and cut annual bonuses. The governor sold control of the international airport to foreign corporations for 40 years and a 40-year concession for operating two major toll roads to U.S.-based Goldman Sachs and Spanish-based Albertis.

U.S. rule over the island has guaranteed high profits for U.S. corporations, while fostering a culture of dependency on federal welfare programs among working people.

Drawn by lower wages, tax exemptions, and a “pro-business” environment, pharmaceutical companies have

made the island the world’s fifth largest drug-manufacturing center. According to *Caribbean Business*, workers on the island are paid 30 to 35 percent less than in the U.S.

Labor participation is at just over 40 percent of the population, one of the lowest in the world. Official unemployment is at 15.5 percent, twice the U.S. rate. Puerto Rico has an average per capita income of \$15,203, less than half that of Mississippi, the poorest U.S. state. More than one-third of the population is dependent on food stamps.

Declining birth rates and a murder rate more than six times higher than in the U.S. and nearly a quarter more than in Mexico add to a picture of growing social crises.

The population of the island has decreased from 3.8 million in 2000 to less than 3.7 million in 2012. There are now more Puerto Ricans living in the U.S. than in Puerto Rico.

“The problem is the colonial system. They say that we live off them, but they live off of us,” long-time independence leader Rafael Cancel Miranda said in a phone interview Oct. 19. “The money that fills the pockets of the bondholders comes from us. U.S. imperialism has made Puerto Rico into an economic base and they take everything.”

## ON THE PICKET LINE

### Coffee factory workers strike over wage cuts in Houston

HOUSTON — About 250 workers at Maximus Coffee Group went on strike here Oct. 10 over company demands for big cuts in pay and benefits.

The contract expired in July, but had been extended during negotiations. “The main issues are the wages. The company proposes cutting wages by 25 to 50 percent and increasing health care costs,” Rick Alleman, secretary treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 455, said on the picket line.

Workers on the picket lines said there had been no pay raise since 2009. The company paid them a 1 percent annual bonus in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Alleman said that 90 percent of production workers in the plant are union members, and that a number of workers who had not joined the union were honoring the strike and staying off the job.

Picketing continues around the clock at all entrances to the plant.

— Steve Warshell  
and Michael Fitzsimmons

agreement allows all workers to come back who want to.”

According to LaPlant, four or five of the scabs may be hired as positions open up, but the rest are out.

“I am proud of the solidarity my union brothers and sisters showed with each other,” said former striker Jeff Frederickson. “It was a big victory that anyone who wanted to go back could do so after the company’s original stance.”

LaPlant said the strikers appreciated solidarity visits to picket lines and monetary donations during the strike. “Hats off to Teamsters locals 117 and 174, ILWU [International Longshore and Warehouse Union] Local 19 and their pensioners group, Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity, supporters of the *Militant* newspaper and other IAM locals,” he said.

“It’s great to be back at work, but we still have a long road ahead,” shop steward Josephine Ulrich said by phone. “We weathered the storm together. We can do anything as long as we stick together as union brothers and sisters.”

— Edwin Fruit

### Wash. bakery machine workers end strike, win better contract

AUBURN, Wash. — Members of International Association of Machinists Local 79 voted overwhelmingly Oct. 2 to accept a new contract, ending their six-month-long strike here against Belshaw Adamatic Bakery Group, which makes donut and bread-making equipment.

“We pushed the company back on the most important items that caused us to walk out,” Cliff LaPlant, the chief shop steward, told the *Militant* when strikers returned to work Oct. 9. “No one will be laid off as a result of outsourcing and the language on this in the ratified contract is far better than what they had initially proposed.

“The company can now hire only five temporary workers one time a year and they cannot work more than 120 days,” LaPlant said. “We get a 38 cents per hour raise immediately and on Oct. 15 a 1.5 percent raise as well. The contract is in effect until October 2015.

“In the middle of the strike, the company permanently replaced 57 of the 63 workers and then brought in scabs to do our work,” he noted. “We told them ‘63 out, 63 in.’ The new

## Migrant boat sinks near Italy, hundreds die, survivors face deportation

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Nearly 350 people drowned when an overloaded boat carrying some 500 migrants sailing from Libya sank less than a mile away from the Italian island of Lampedusa Oct. 3. Most were refugees from Eritrea and Somalia.

They, like thousands of others each year escaping wars and impoverishment in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, risk their lives to get to Europe. At the same time, governments in Europe are tightening their borders.

On Oct. 11, 34 drowned when another boat carrying about 250 people, most fleeing the civil war in Syria, capsized in the Mediterranean Sea.

The day before, 61 immigrants from Iraq, Syria and Palestine died when the boat carrying them sank in the Aegean Sea off the coast of Izmir, Turkey. Three-quarters were women and children.

### Seven million Syrians displaced in civil war



Thousands of Syrians stream across the Tigris River into Iraqi Kurdistan Aug. 15. When the Iraq Kurdistan Regional Government opened the border, 42,000 crossed in one week. Over 200,000 Kurdish refugees from Syria live there now.

An average of 5,000 Syrians are forced from their homes on a daily basis as a result of the bloody civil war and bombardment of working-class neighborhoods by forces backing the Bashar al-Assad government. A total of 7 million have been displaced, more than 2 million of whom have fled the country into neighboring Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. Syrian refugees have been among the hundreds who have drowned in recent months attempting to get to Europe by boat.

This massive movement is not only uprooting and devastating the lives of Syrian toilers, but is setting uncontrolled political forces in motion throughout the region. Meanwhile, U.S. warships remain poised off the Syrian coast for possible military intervention to protect the interests of U.S. imperialism.

—EMMA JOHNSON

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 4, 1988

ST GEORGE’S, Grenada — Youth began gathering at a corner of the market square here on October 19. The rally was organized by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement to commemorate the assassination of Bishop.

Bishop and other leaders of Grenada’s revolutionary government were gunned down by troops loyal to Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard five years ago.

A few days before the killings, Coard staged a counterrevolutionary coup that toppled Grenada’s revolutionary government, which had been in power since 1979. On Oct. 25, 1983, U.S. troops invaded the island, installing a proimperialist government that today is headed by Herbert Blaize.

Unable to ignore the high esteem in which Bishop is held by the Grenadian people, Blaize’s government was forced to organize a token ceremony of its own on October 19 and to call for a National Day of Prayer.



November 4, 1963

CHICAGO — Tuesday, Oct. 22, was “Freedom Day” in Chicago. It was the day of the biggest civil-rights boycott in the nation’s history. Almost 200,000 elementary and high school students stayed away from classes. The students, mostly Negroes from the ghettos of the South Side and West Side, were protesting the re-hiring of School Superintendent Benjamin Willis.

He had resigned under fire from his \$48,000-a-year job as czar of the Chicago school system after stubbornly resisting school desegregation demands. But the school board (appointed by Democratic Mayor Daley) refused to accept his resignation. Boycott actions are being proposed to win Willis’ ouster.

School teachers and Willis himself admitted that the boycott constituted a nearly unanimous show of strength. Students pasted “Freedom Day” stickers on walls, windows and lockers in their schools and neighborhoods.



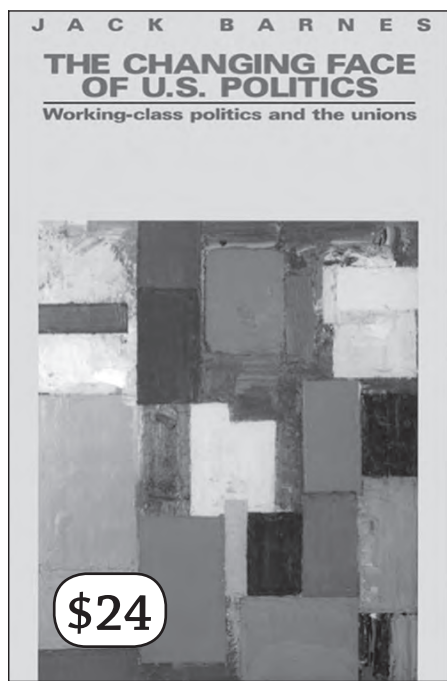
November 5, 1938

Nearly 1,500 crowded into the Center Hotel in New York City Friday to celebrate the founding of the Fourth International and the tenth anniversary of our movement in this country.

Leon Trotsky addressed the meeting by electrical transcription. He reviewed the history of the movement that has come to fruition in the newly-founded International and reiterated its historic task, “the full material and spiritual liberation of the toilers and exploited through the socialist revolution.”

Trotsky’s speech was the climax of a meeting that dramatically symbolized the struggles, the sacrifices, the traditions, hopes, and convictions of the movement that has now entered the most fruitful period of its development under the unfurled banner of the Fourth International. Others who spoke represented the currents that merged with the Left Opposition and are fused under the banner of the Socialist Workers Party.

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See page 3 for special price

# Government shutdown ends

Continued from front page

is posed by its resolution — the added powers of presidential decree bestowed by the legislators.

The suspension of “nonessential” government services — those of lesser importance to the capitalist class — took place Oct. 1 after the Republican Party majority in the House of Representatives refused to pass the

## COMMENTARY

government appropriations bill in an attempt to halt or at least postpone implementation of the Affordable Care Act, known as “Obamacare.”

One aspect of the bill before Congress was a proposal to increase the congressional imposed limit on borrowing to avoid an Oct. 17 deadline for defaulting on payments to holders of U.S. government bonds. Called the “debt ceiling,” the limit has been raised by Congress 53 times since 1978.

As the debt ceiling deadline approached, major dailies printed dire warnings about the impending disaster to U.S. and world finance that would result from the first U.S. government debt default in history. In reality, such a thing was far from a real possibility, however. The holders of U.S. bonds always get paid first, on time, and in full. And the U.S. ruling families — who hold much of this debt themselves — were not going to needlessly cast doubt on the “full faith and credit” of the almighty dollar.

On Oct. 16, hours before the default deadline, Congress passed the Default Prevention Act giving the president the power to suspend the limit through Feb. 7, 2014. The debt ceiling will then be automatically raised by the amount necessary to maintain debt payments. Congress can technically decide against the automatic raise, but the president was given the power to overrule any such decision. At that point, only a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate could override the president’s decision.

The U.S. Constitution in Article 1,

Section 8, gives Congress the power to collect taxes and pay debts. “Until 1917, the president had to ask Congress’ permission for each borrowing and frequently acquiesced to conditions,” wrote the *Investor’s Business Daily*. “Ever since then, presidents have come to Congress once or twice a year for a debt-ceiling hike. Until this year, Congress had never abdicated control over the nation’s indebtedness.”

The tendency of the president to more and more act as if Congress does not exist gained some traction under the former presidencies of George W. Bush and William Clinton. This inclination has accelerated under the presidency of Barack Obama.

The separation of powers and limits on presidential authority drafted into the U.S. Constitution slow down and sometimes “gridlock” the ability of the U.S. rulers to make and carry out decisions. This is good for the working class. It affords us more political space to organize and fight. On the other hand, the current tendency toward strengthening executive powers over those of Congress and the courts helps sets the stage for reactionary forces to brush aside bourgeois-democratic forms in the future when the class struggle reaches a pitch that they become obstacles to maintaining capitalist rule.

The loudest cry for the president to “take charge” and break through the inconvenience of legislative decision-making came from the current president’s liberal base — among the most anti-democratic and Constitution-indifferent wing in U.S. bourgeois politics today.

Writing in the *New York Times*, for example, Henry Aaron of the Brookings Institution wrote, “The only defensible option for the president if the debt ceiling is not raised is to disregard the debt ceiling.”

Meanwhile, as part of the deal ending the impasse, a new budget committee was formed, where Democratic and Republican legislators are discussing deeper cuts to Medicare, Social Security and other social programs.

### 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.

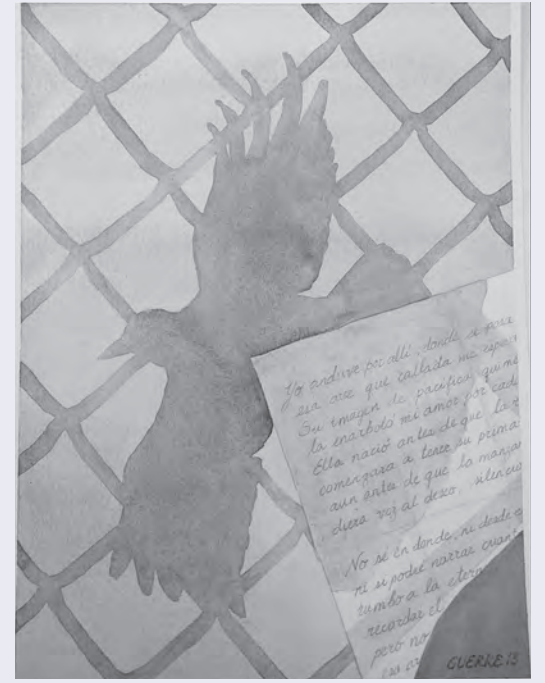
On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with “conspiracy to gather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

### Use Guerrero exhibit to broaden support for Cuban 5

At right, “Rec” is one of 15 watercolors by Antonio Guerrero of the Cuban Five that depict the first 17 months the five framed-up revolutionaries were locked up in the Federal Detention Center in Miami. This work shows the “recreation” cubicle where prisoners were allowed to spend one hour per day. “There was a grating that turned the cubicle into a cage,” Guerrero writes. “It was impossible to take a little pencil that they gave us and a piece of paper to write; although there were times I managed it ... above all poems took form in my mind.”



The exhibit, titled “I Will Die the Way I Lived,” is a powerful tool for reaching to the tens of millions of working people in the U.S. who know firsthand, or through the experience of friends or family, the reality of the so-called justice system and can immediately identify with the frame-up and treatment of the Five. Many can be won to support the fight for their freedom by learning about who these working-class fighters are, the proletarian internationalist course to which they have dedicated their lives and the socialist revolution in Cuba they were jailed for defending.

The paintings have been exhibited in Minneapolis, New York, Washington, D.C., and Havana. “The paintings don’t have to be exhibited in an art gallery,” notes Alicia Jrapko from the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5. “They can be displayed anywhere people will see them.”

Contact the committee at [info@thecuban5.org](mailto:info@thecuban5.org) to find out how you can get files to reproduce the paintings and organize a showing.

— SETH GALINSKY

## San Francisco transit strike

Continued from front page

and killed while inspecting track in Walnut Creek, Calif. AFSCME Local 3993 organizes supervisors, technicians and other salaried employees and was not part of the walkout. According to the Local 3993 website, the majority of its members chose not to cross the ATU and SEIU picket lines. The two had years of railroad experience.

The train — operated by management personnel who were training a new operator during the strike — was on automatic pilot barreling down the tracks at 60 to 70 miles per hour.

“BART from the beginning tried to cover up the fact that this was a scab-training train, aimed at performing union work, and now two families have to live with BART’s decision,” Charles Duran, a seven-year train operator in the Hayward, Calif., yard, told the *Militant*.

BART has “two sets of safety standards, one for us and one for them,” said Duran. “They ignored the safety training that workers receive and took a short cut, costing two people their lives.”

“People picketing at the El Cerrito Norte station were very angry when we heard about the deaths,” Shirley Peña, a BART train operator in the Richmond, Calif., yard, said in a phone interview Oct. 22. “It showed BART’s callous disregard for safety.”

BART had been pressing to give management the ability to assign workers to any yard on a given day and more flexibility in setting work hours, workers said.

During the strike, the big-business press here tried whipping up popular sentiment against the strikers and their union with editorial commentary and quote after quote from people focus-

ing their irritations over inconveniences they say are caused by the workers.

The union’s “objections resemble the complaints of a medieval guild,” the Oct. 18 *San Francisco Chronicle* said, “so accustomed to the ancient methods that its members can’t see the worth of change or flexibility.”

“The BART board of directors is at fault,” said BART train operator Steve Perocier at the picket line outside the El Cerrito del Norte station Oct. 18 where pickets received a supportive response from many passersby. “They don’t care about the ridership or the employees.”

Workers at BART — the fifth-busiest transit system in the U.S. handling nearly 400,000 riders per day — had organized a four-and-a-half-day strike at the beginning of July. That action ended when transit worker unions agreed to return to work for 30 days while the two sides resumed negotiations. After the 30-day period ended Aug. 11 and no settlement had been reached, Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown was granted a court order for a 60-day “cooling off” period, imposing a strike injunction on the unions through Oct. 10.

BART spokesperson Alicia Trost told the *Militant* Oct. 23 she cannot answer questions or comment on the workers’ deaths.

“This is a tragic day in BART’s history,” BART’s General Manager Grace Crunican said on its website Oct. 19.

“We are fighting for everyone,” striking electrician Kit Decker told the *Militant* Oct. 20 at a union-organized vigil for the two workers. “We want respect for workers everywhere, union or non-union.”

*Bill Kalman from Richmond, Calif., contributed to this article.*

# Fight against censorship

Continued from front page

victory over book banning was won Sept. 25 when the Randolph County, N.C., school board was forced by a public outcry to rescind a nine-day-old ban on Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* from school libraries.

The paper has been contacted by two more workers behind bars who had issues of the *Militant* reporting on the hunger strike confiscated or rejected, one in Washington state and another in a different Florida prison.

"Other publications, such as the *New York Times*, *Miami Herald* and *USA Today*, had covered the California hunger strikes," the Reporters Committee said. The article reprinted the committee's statement in support of the *Militant's* appeal, which read, in part: "Journalists have not only a right but an obligation to report on matters of public concern and political significance. Recent articles by the *Militant* and other news outlets about a hunger strike and conditions in California prisons exemplify this duty."

The *San Francisco Bay View*, an African-American newspaper that reports widely on prisoner issues, also released a statement in support of the *Militant's* fight, as did a number of activists who have joined protests in California to back the hunger strikers' protest against solitary confinement.

The number of workers thrown into prisons and jails has exploded. Government statistics show some 2.3 million incarcerated in the U.S. — a jump of 274 percent over the last 25 years.

The plea-bargain system has largely

replaced trial by a jury of your peers. Some 95 percent of those behind bars were pressured into copping a plea under threat of more draconian sentences.

This explosion has been accompanied by increasing prison censorship of inmates' mail, newspaper subscriptions and book orders. In an article titled "Prison Books Ban: The Censorship Scandal Inside," the *Huffington Post* reports on how prison officials "deprive prisoners of access to thousands of books, magazines and newspapers."

*Prison Legal News* began as a 10-page hand-typed newsletter for 75 subscribers produced by two inmates in different Washington state prisons, Paul Wright and Ed Mead. Wright, who remains the editor, served 25 years on trumped-up charges of murder. He won parole in 2003.

The newsletter now has 7,000 subscribers, overwhelmingly inmates, and estimates that it gets into the hands of more than 10 times that number from being handed around from inmate to inmate, much like the *Militant*.

*Prison Legal News* has faced censorship beginning with its first issue. It currently faces a blanket ban in 10 state prison systems.

## Prisoner newsletter banned

The newsletter had been banned in South Carolina when that state barred all publications from inmates other than the bible. Jails in Sacramento County, Calif., barred it, saying the staples it was bound with were potential weapons.

"I think this fits within the overall

## Students rally in France against deporting classmates



Reuters/Benoit Tessier

Thousands of high school students demonstrated in Paris Oct. 17 to protest the government's deportation of two students — Leonarda Dibrani, 15, to Kosovo and Khatchik Kachatryan, 19, to Armenia. Leonarda was removed by police from a school bus Oct. 9 while on a class field trip and deported along with her family that day. Her family is Roma, an oppressed nationality disparagingly referred to as "gypsies," and had been living in France for nearly five years. Sign in photo above says, "Khatchik must come back."

The following day thousands demonstrated in Paris and other cities across France. They demanded the students' return and resignation of Interior Minister Manuel Valls, who backed the expulsions. Valls is a member of the Socialist Party government of President François Hollande. The French president, a strong proponent of deporting the Roma, said Oct. 19 that Leonarda could return to France, but without her family.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

crackdown by police and jails around the country," Wright told the *Sacramento Daily Journal* in 2012. "They seem intent on crushing the right to free speech."

Wright also says that *Prison Legal News* has to take on the fight against censorship itself, because the big-business press won't do it. "They tell us they

are not part of their targeted advertising demographic," Wright said.

Material censored around the country varies. Texas maintains a list of some 12,000 books that are banned. An increasing number of jails bar everything except postcards. Other institutions target political news and reports of protests of prisoners against solitary confinement and other abuses, like the impoundment of the *Militant* in Florida and Washington.

The fall 2013 issue of *The Movement*, the newsletter of the Human Rights Coalition for the Union of Prisoners' Families, published in Philadelphia, is devoted to "Prison Censorship."

"We're proud that our subscription base among workers behind bars is growing today," the *Militant's* editor Doug Nelson said. "We will continue to fight efforts to deny prisoners the right to read the *Militant* and whatever else they want. And we will join with anyone else who does likewise."

"This is part of the battle for inmates to connect with life outside prison and for working people on both sides of the prison walls to recognize and connect with each others' struggles. It's a question of the morale and dignity of the working class."

# N.C. school board rescinds ban on 'Invisible Man'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In response to immediate and widespread condemnation, the school board of Randolph County, N.C., reversed its decision to ban Ralph Ellison's classic novel *Invisible Man* from school libraries. The reversal was approved 6-1 in a hastily called special meeting Sept. 25, nine days after the ban.

"It was nothing but public pressure that made them change their minds," Donald Matthews, president of the Randolph County NAACP, said in a phone interview from Randleman, N.C., Oct. 20. "The novel has long been a staple of summer reading."

Published in 1952, *Invisible Man* won the National Book Award the following year. It is about a nameless African-American man who narrates the story of

his life buffeted by a racist society from his youth in the South to adulthood in New York City.

"I am an invisible man," he says. "When they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves or figments of their imagination — indeed, everything and anything except me."

The American Library Association sent a letter to the board Sept. 23 urging them to lift the ban. "Those objecting to particular books should not be given the power to restrict other users' rights of access to the material," wrote Barbara Jones, director of the group's Office for Intellectual Freedom. "If parents think a particular book is not suitable for their child, they should guide their children to other books. They should not impose their beliefs on other people's children."

## Defend freedom to read, think for ourselves

Below is an excerpt from a letter sent Oct. 19 from the *Militant* to Barbara Jones, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, which joined the successful fight to convince the Randolph County, N.C., Board of Education to reverse its book ban on Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. The letter concluded by drawing attention to the *Militant's* successful fight against censorship of its paper in Florida state prisons, a complement to the victory in Randolph County.

The *Militant* congratulates the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom, as well as other groups and individuals such as the Randolph County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the North Carolina American Civil Liberties Union, for your efforts in winning a reversal of the Randolph County, N.C., Board of Education's September 16 decision to ban Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* from school libraries there.

For working people, the freedom to read what we want without legal restrictions or other obstacles is crucial to be able to think, discuss and act in our interests. The victory you helped to win over censorship and book-banning is a strong reminder of the broad support for defense of these basic political rights.

"We urge that you be guided by the U.S. Supreme Court, which held that public school officials may not remove books from school library shelves simply because of their disagreement with the views or ideas expressed in the books," the letter said.

The attempt at banning sparked interest in reading the book among students and others in the county, which is 81 percent non-Hispanic Caucasian, 11 percent Latino and 6 percent African-American. Vintage Books, the publisher of *Invisible Man*, sent 100 copies to a local bookstore to be distributed for free to high school students. "By the end of the night all the free copies were given away," said Matthews, "and another 25 or 30 were sold." And there was a long waiting list for it at the public libraries.

The letters page of the local *Asheboro Courier-Tribune* was filled with calls for reversing the ban. And board members said they were deluged with email, overwhelmingly for putting the book back on the shelves.

The torrent of emails was "very enlightening," School Board Chairman Tommy McDonald told the *Los Angeles Times*. The response made him realize that "my job is to make sure that book is there whether I want to read it or not."

"The Randolph County Board of Education righted a wrong," said the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina Legal Foundation in a Sept. 25 statement after the vote. "The freedom to read is just as essential to a healthy democracy as the freedom of speech and all other rights protected by the U.S. Constitution."

## JOIN THE FIGHT

**Help get out the word.** Get copies of this article round.

**Get statements of support** for the *Militant's* appeal from defenders of workers rights and free speech.

**Send a check or money order** to The *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018, e-mail marked "Prisoners Rights Fight."

**If you are a prisoner** let the *Militant* know if you haven't been receiving your subscription.



**Contribute to the Militant Prisoners' Fund.** Send a check or money order to the *Militant* e-mail marked "Prisoners' Fund."

# Leon Trotsky reviews 'Iron Heel' in 'Art and Revolution'

Art and Revolution: Writings on Literature, Politics, and Culture by Leon Trotsky is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. The selection below is an excerpt from Trotsky's review of Jack London's *The Iron Heel*, written from exile in Mexico in 1937 after receiving the book from London's daughter. Trotsky, a central leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution, fought to continue Lenin's communist course in the face of the political counterrevolution led by Josef Stalin. Copyright © 1970. Reprinted by permission.



Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky, right, collaborated with André Breton, left, founder of surrealist movement, and Mexican mural painter Diego Rivera, middle, on "Manifesto for an Independent Revolutionary Art." Drafted by Breton, it called for "complete freedom of art" against political constraints of "socialist realism" imposed in Soviet Union under Josef Stalin.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

The book produced upon me—I speak without exaggeration—a deep impression. Not because of its artistic qualities: the form of the novel here represents only an armor for social analysis and prognosis. The author is intentionally sparing in his use of artistic means. He is himself interested not so much in the individual fate of his heroes as in the fate of mankind. By this, however, I don't want at all to belittle the artistic value of the work, especially in its last chapters beginning with the Chicago commune. The pictures of civil war develop in powerful frescoes. Nevertheless, this is not the main feature. The book surprised me with the audacity and independence of its historical foresight.

The world workers' movement at the

end of the last and the beginning of the present century stood under the sign of reformism. The perspective of peaceful and uninterrupted world progress, of the prosperity of democracy and social reforms, seemed to be assured once and for all. The first Russian Revolution, it is true, revived the radical flank of the German social democracy and gave for a certain time dynamic force to anarcho-syndicalism in France. *The Iron Heel* bears the undoubted imprint of the year 1905. But at the time when this remarkable book appeared, the domination of counterrevolution was already consolidating itself in Russia. In the world arena the defeat of the Russian proletariat gave to reformism the possibility not only of regaining its temporarily lost positions but also of subjecting to itself completely the organized workers' movement. It is sufficient to recall that precisely in the following seven years (1907–14) the international social democracy ripened definitely for its base and shameful role during the World War.

Jack London not only absorbed creatively the impetus given by the first Russian Revolution but also courageously thought over again in its light the fate of capitalist society as a whole. Precisely those problems which the official socialism of this time considered to be definitely buried: the growth of wealth and power at one pole, of misery and destitution at the other pole; the accumula-

tion of social bitterness and hatred; the unalterable preparation of bloody cataclysms—all those questions Jack London felt with an intrepidity which forces one to ask himself again and again with astonishment: when was this written? Really before the war?

One must accentuate especially the role which Jack London attributes to the labor bureaucracy and to the labor aristocracy in the further fate of mankind. Thanks to their support, the American plutocracy not only succeeds in defeating the workers' insurrection but also in keeping its iron dictatorship during the following three centuries. We will not dispute with the poet the delay which can but seem to us too long. However, it is not a question of Jack London's pessimism, but of his passionate effort to shake those who are lulled by routine, to force them to open their eyes and to see what is and what approaches. The artist is audaciously utilizing the methods of hyperbole. He is bringing the tendencies rooted in capitalism: of oppression, cruelty, bestiality, betrayal, to their extreme expression. ...

It is easy to imagine with what a condescending perplexity the official socialist thinking of that time met Jack London's menacing prophecies. If one took the trouble to look over the reviews of *The Iron Heel* at that time in the German *Neue Zeit* and *Vorwaerts*, in the Austrian *Kampf* and *Arbeiterzeitung*, as

well as in the other socialist publications of Europe and America, he could easily convince himself that the thirty-year-old "romanticist" saw incomparably more clearly and farther than all the social democratic leaders of that time taken together. But Jack London bears comparison in this domain not only with the reformists. One can say with assurance that in 1907 not one of the revolutionary Marxists, not excluding Lenin and Rosa Luxemburg, imagined so fully the ominous perspective of the alliance between finance capital and labor aristocracy. This suffices in itself to determine the specific weight of the novel.

The chapter "The Roaring Abysmal Beast" undoubtedly constitutes the focus of the book. At the time when the novel appeared, this apocalyptic chapter must have seemed to be the boundary of hyperbolism. However, the consequent happenings have almost surpassed it. And the last word of class struggle has not yet been said by far! The "Abysmal Beast" is to the extreme degree oppressed, humiliated, and degenerated people. Who would now dare to speak for this reason about the artist's pessimism? No, London is an optimist, only a penetrating and farsighted one. "Look into what kind of abyss the bourgeoisie will hurl you down, if you don't finish with them!" This is his thought. Today it sounds incomparably more real and sharp than thirty years ago. But still more astonishing is the genuinely prophetic vision of the methods by which the *Iron Heel* will sustain its domination over crushed mankind. London manifests remarkable freedom from reformistic pacifist illusions. In this picture of the future there remains not a trace of democracy and peaceful progress. Over the mass of the deprived rise the castes of labor aristocracy, of praetorian army, of an all-penetrating police, with the financial oligarchy at the top. In reading it one does not believe his own eyes: it is precisely the picture of fascism, of its economy, of its governmental technique, its political psychology! The fact is incontestable: in 1907 Jack London already foresaw and described the fascist regime as the inevitable result of the defeat of the proletarian revolution.

November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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# Contribute to Party-Building Fund

BY TONY LANE

The Socialist Workers Party is inviting readers of the *Militant*, workers, farmers, youth and others to join efforts to aid the work of the revolutionary party by contributing to its annual fund drive.

The nine-week drive runs from Oct. 12 through Dec. 17 with the goal of raising \$100,000. Over the same weeks, supporters of the *Militant* newspaper will be signing up 2,500 subscribers, many of whom will also pick up Pathfinder books on revolutionary working-class continuity and history.

Party members and others will be knocking on doors in working-class neighborhoods and joining discussions at political protest actions and working-class resistance.

This is what's in front of the party today: greater openings to discuss with workers the roots of the world economic crisis and a fighting road forward for working people; interest in an internationalist working-class perspective on events like the civil war in Syria and why workers should oppose U.S. intervention; possibilities to advance the campaign to free the Cuban Five and defend the Cuban Revolution; and opportunities to join fights in defense of workers rights,

including those behind bars.

Candidates and campaign supporters will be using the party's election campaign tickets in cities around the country through November to complement this work. And the party is organizing to take advantage of opportunities to engage in political work around the world, including helping build delegations to join the discussion and debate at the 18th World Festival of Youth and Students taking place in December in Quito, Ecuador.

Local areas are adopting quotas for the fund and looking for opportunities to win new contributors. Appeals for the fund at local Militant Labor Forums will be one way to raise money and reach out. A column on the drive will be a weekly item in the *Militant*. Reports on gaining new contributors and collections should be sent in by Monday 9 a.m. EDT.

Contributions towards the fund can be sent to the SWP office nearest you (see directory on page 8) or directly to the SWP National Office at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

*Tony Lane is director of the 2013 SWP Party-Building Fund.*

## Socialist Workers Party campaign

Continued from front page

for a government-funded jobs program and a big increase in the minimum wage."

Benson and one of his mayoral opponents, Al Bartell, were both asked, "What will you do to help the little people?" Bartell said he would create an office of public engagement to hear people's concerns.

Benson said the way forward was for workers to organize and fight, citing the example of the "Atlanta Public School bus drivers who have been fighting through their union in public protests demanding back pay for training days they had to attend, better working conditions and respect."

Rachele Fruit, running for city council on the SWP ticket with Benson, took part in the program. On Oct. 7 she joined school bus drivers, members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1644, at a school board meeting to press their demands.

"Workers in Atlanta face the same attacks as workers throughout the world and are fighting for the same things — the right to organize unions, livable wages, decent health care and education," Fruit said at the Oct. 14 candidates' event.

"The Affordable Care Act brings us not one step closer to government-funded, universal medical care," Fruit said.

"We say that health care, child care, elder care, education, the most basic necessities of life and culture should not be commodities that are bought and sold, but should be considered basic human rights as they are in Cuba," Fruit said. "These conquests in Cuba have only been possible because workers and

farmers there made a revolution in 1959 and wrested political power from the capitalist exploiters. That's why Cuba is enemy number one to the U.S. rulers."



On Oct. 17 Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Queens borough president in New York City, and Dan Fein, the party's candidate for mayor, joined hundreds of Haitian-Americans, Dominicans and others to protest the Sept. 23 ruling by the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic that could strip citizenship from as many as 300,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent.

"Wi nou kapab" ("Yes we can" in creole), Galinsky said, addressing the demonstrators. "The decision of the Constitutional Court taking away the citizenship of Dominicans of Haitian descent is not just an attack on them and on Haitians, it is an attack on the entire working class in the Dominican Republic.

"The bosses want to divide the working class," he said, "they try to do the same thing here in the United States.

"They try to avoid the blame for growing joblessness and their deepening attacks on workers, attacks that flow from the crisis of their capitalist system, by scapegoating immigrants," Galinsky said. "Workers, no matter where we're from, have the same enemy — the bosses who exploit our labor to fill their bank accounts.

"We say no deportations in the Dominican Republic and no deportations right here in the United States," Galinsky told the crowd.

— John Studer

## Dominican citizenship

Continued from front page

that Dominicans born after 1929 are no longer citizens, if their parents are not legal permanent residents. There are some 300,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent who face a range of problems, including possible deportation. In addition there are as many as 1 million Haitians who work and live in the Dominican Republic.

Michel, originally from Haiti, has lived in the Dominican Republic since 1974 and spent more than a decade cutting sugarcane. He has been involved in the fight to defend the rights of Haitians there since 1977 and now works full time for the Dominican-Haitian Human Rights Committee.

"If you don't have papers, you can't study, you can't get social security, you can't get a lot of jobs," Michel said. "If we are united we can do a lot of things. We can fight for the rights of immigrants and for Dominican-Haitians to go to school."

For decades sugar and banana plantation owners have taken advantage of the immense poverty in neighboring Haiti as a source of cheap labor. Haitians and their Dominican-born descendants have faced widespread discrimination in hiring, housing, education and access to government services.

Today almost all cane cutters are Haitian, often living in shacks without electricity or running water. The vast majority of construction workers in the country are Dominicans of Haitian descent or Haitian, as are about one-third of domestic workers.

Until recently the constitution said that all those born in the country are citizens, except for children of diplomats and of visitors "in transit," understood to be 10 days or less. But this hasn't prevented the government from carrying out mass deportations that include some who were born in the country or have government work permits. In 1991, the *New York Times* reports, "more than 50,000 Haitians and dark-skinned Dominicans" were deported by President Joaquín Balaguer. In 2003, 37,000 were deported and in 2005 as many as 25,000.

In 2004 the government of President Leonel Fernández passed a law saying that workers who did not have government-issued residency permits were in transit, including farmworkers with temporary work permits, no matter how many years or decades they have lived there.

In 2007 the Central Electoral Board, which is in charge of the country's civil registry, instructed its offices to withhold copies of birth certificates and ID cards to those with "questionable" citizenship. Birth certificate copies are only valid for three months, but they are needed to obtain ID cards, marry, register for school, to apply for some jobs and even get a cell-phone plan.

Many who have lived their whole life in the Dominican Republic, had never been to Haiti nor speak Haitian creole were told their names sounded Haitian, or they looked Haitian and were denied papers.

"Fernández was the architect of this new anti-Haitian machinery," Juan Telemín said by phone from Guaymate Oct. 22. Telemín is the national coordinator of Reconoci.do, which was formed at the end of 2010 to combat the accelerating anti-Haitian moves.

In 2010 a new constitution was adopted that bars the children of anyone who "resides illegally in Dominican territory" from citizenship from then on. There were no protests at the time "because we thought those of us already here would not be affected," Telemín said. "We didn't think it was prudent. But they didn't just take an inch or a mile, they took 60 miles."

The 60 miles, Telemín said, is the September Constitutional Court ruling that makes the denial of citizenship retroactive.

The decision has sparked intense debate. "In the name of order, public peace and the preservation of the nationality and the homeland," columnist Matías Bosch wrote in *Listin Diario*, a major daily, "a real social apartheid is being established."

Several hundred people, mostly Haitian-American and some Dominicans, protested the decision Oct. 17 in New York.

"I feel this is a disgrace," public transit worker Charles Joseph said at the action. "The whole world must know what is going on in the Dominican Republic and protest until they overturn this."

## LETTERS

### Inspired by Pathfinder books

During his 40 years in solitary confinement in Louisiana's Angola Prison, Black Panther and revolutionary for life Herman Wallace no doubt drew great strength from the many Pathfinder Press books that somehow made it to him.

At Herman's Memorial in the Treme Community Center in New Orleans on Saturday, October 13 organizers of the event posted a display that listed the title and author's name of the books in the revolutionary's personal library. The single most numerous source of books in his library, by far, were Pathfinder publications. The people at Pathfinder should take pride in knowing that their publishing house helped inspire and nurture

the consciousness of a working-class revolutionary enduring extreme repression for a horrendously long period of time.

Herman Wallace, presente!  
*Michael Howells*  
*New Orleans, La.*

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