

Militant takes  
working-class  
politics, fights  
to doorsteps

BY EMMA JOHNSON  
“On workers’ doorsteps we’ve been talking a lot about the importance of developments in Ukraine, how miners and other workers are struggling to defend the political space they’ve won by throwing off Russian domination, and what the stakes are for workers around the world. Workers appreciate this,” Pamela Holmes said by phone from

4TH WEEK BEST SO FAR –  
ALL OUT FOR FINAL PUSH!

London May 3. “They also recognize themselves when the *Militant* describes how any ‘economic recovery’ has zoomed past the working class.”  
“What you’re doing is terrific,” Sadig Werah told *Militant* supporters when they knocked on his door in Edmonton, north London. “I have never had anyone come to my door with a

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Albuquerque  
cops’ killing of  
homeless man  
sparks outrage

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS  
The video of James Boyd being gunned down by Albuquerque cops was made public March 21, sparking protests in that city in New Mexico where police have fatally shot 24 people since 2010. Outrage spread after cops assaulted a March 30 demonstration against this on-the-spot administration of capitalist “justice.” On April 10 the U.S. Department of Justice released a report saying that “most” of the killings by the Albuquerque Police Department were “unconstitutional.”  
“We have a rogue regime, out of control, that’s getting away with murder,” Kenneth Ellis II, 54, said in a phone interview from Albuquerque April 28. His son, Kenneth Ellis III, an Iraq war veteran, was shot and killed by the cops in January 2010. “They shot him in the back, just like in Boyd’s shooting,” he said. “My son’s five-year-old son had to bury his daddy.”  
On March 16 Albuquerque cops killed Boyd, a 38-year-old homeless man, who was camping in the city’s foothills.  
A video of the incident, shot from an officer’s helmet-mounted camera, showed Boyd gathering his belongings. “Don’t change up the agreement. I’m going to try to walk with you,” he tells officers who confronted him from a distance for illegal camping. “Don’t worry about safety, I’m not a f----- murderer.”  
“Do it,” one officer tells another,

Continued on page 4

Ukraine workers fight  
to defend sovereignty

Tatars resist Moscow occupation of Crimea



AP/Alexander Polegenko

Crimean Tatars march May 3 to Russian checkpoint at Crimean border, demanding Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev be allowed to enter peninsula, but Russian government officials refused.

BY JOHN STUDER  
Agents of the Russian military and local recruits, which include criminal gangs, have stepped up provocations across Ukraine’s eastern and southern regions, laying the ground for direct intervention by Moscow.  
Workers, youth and others have joined demonstrations in support of Ukrainian sovereignty. Some 3,000 people marched May 4 in Dnepropetrovsk, many of whom gathered for a soccer match there featuring the Ukrainian Premier League teams from the home city and Lviv in the west. Among the chants by fans from both sides were “East and West together” and “Glory to Ukraine.”  
Soccer fans from all across the

country, including from the Donetsk Shakhtar (Miner) team, Kharkiv Metalist (Metalworkers), and other cities in the east, have taken part in pro-Ukrainian demonstrations and volun-

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Oil, rail bosses’  
profit drive causes  
yet another fiery  
train explosion

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS  
The dangers posed for working people from the capitalists’ profit-driven oil boom was brought home once again April 30, this time in

FIGHT FOR WORKERS  
CONTROL ON THE JOB!  
— See commentary page 9

Lynchburg, Virginia, when a train carrying highly flammable crude oil derailed and exploded near the center of the town of 78,000. Thirteen cars

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Calif. port drivers fight for union:  
We’re workers, not ‘contractors’

BY NORTON SANDLER  
WILMINGTON, Calif. — At a “T” on the road in the midst of heavy traffic, a couple dozen truck drivers from Total Transportation Services, Inc. picketed for 48 hours April 28-29, delaying the movement of goods out of the company’s facility at the Port of Los Angeles.  
They are demanding that they be reclassified as hourly wage workers, instead of being considered as so-called independent contractors.  
They blocked trucks and other traffic for up to five minutes or more at a time before letting a few trucks pass from each of three directions. A few drivers unsuccessfully tried to ram through the picket lines, which were part of a coordinated action by workers at Green Fleet



Militant/Frank Forrestal

Truck drivers picket near Port of Los Angeles April 28.

Systems, Pacific 9 Transportation and Total Transportation Services, backed by Teamsters union Local 848.  
Workers from the three companies

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Spring 'Militant' subscription campaign April 5 - May 14 (week 4)				
Country	quota	sold	%	1,800
UNITED STATES				Should be .....  1262
Los Angeles	115	99	86%	
Philadelphia	80	66	83%	
San Francisco	110	89	81%	
Chicago	75	60	80%	
Houston	50	40	80%	
Seattle	100	79	79%	
Omaha/Lincoln	120	90	75%	
Twin Cities	100	75	75%	
Miami	65	48	74%	
Des Moines	85	61	72%	
Atlanta*	100	64	64%	
Boston	40	23	58%	
New York	300	160	53%	
Washington	75	35	47%	
Total U.S.	1415	989	70%	
PRISONERS	10	17	170%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	100	83	83%	
Manchester	65	57	88%	
UK Total	165	140	85%	
CANADA	65	43	66%	
NEW ZEALAND	50	36	72%	
AUSTRALIA	50	37	74%	
Total	1755	1262	70%	
Should be	1800	1440	80%	
*Raised goal				

Also Inside

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# Prison authorities in Texas let inmates die from stifling heat

BY STEVE WARSHELL

HOUSTON — Texas prison authorities’ indifference toward suffocating heat is killing inmates, according to a report by the University of Texas Law School’s Human Rights Clinic. The report characterizes state prison conditions as a violation of the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution barring cruel and unusual punishment and a violation of international human rights standards. It calls on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to bring temperatures down to 85 degrees in the state’s 109 prisons this summer.

Prison reports previously showed 19 workers behind bars have died since 1998 from heat-related illnesses during the summer when the heat index in cells regularly tops 115 degrees. In the case of one death cited in a lawsuit, the index topped 149 degrees. Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials have admitted that 12 inmates died as a result of high temperatures since 2007.

Texas officials argue that inmates have access to water and are allowed to buy personal fans and dress in shorts. “We supply ice water and have fans and other equipment to increase air movement,” Texas Department of Criminal Justice Executive Director Brad Livingston told the *Houston Chronicle* April 26. “We believe the protocols are appropriate.”

When interviewed by the *Militant*, former convict and prisoner rights activist Ray Hill disputed the official’s claims:

“In Texas you can get above 100 degrees any day from May to Octo-

ber,” said Hill, founder of “The Prison Show” radio program on Houston’s KPFT 90.1 FM station. “Now magnify that in brick and steel buildings with windows that often can’t be opened. Outside it may be 90, but on the first tier it will be 100, the second tier more like 110 and the third even more.

“They say they have ice makers,” said Hill. “But they are the tiniest ones I’ve ever seen. A small café is too much for those things, not to mention a state prison with 1,600 inmates. Fans? They’re available in the commissary, but I hope the outlet in your cell works. Water? There’s never enough water. We used to make a cell-block swamp cooler by getting the top sheet wet in the toilet — there wasn’t enough water from the sink — and then laying under it all night long. That was about the only way to cool down after working outside all day.”

Lawyers representing the family of Larry Gene McCollum have said that the most modest remedies were unavailable to him when he died from heat-stroke in July 2011 — a week after being sent to Hutchins State Jail in Dallas.

As a new inmate, McCollum did not yet have commissary privileges, which meant that he couldn’t buy a fan, or shorts, or even a cup. He began to have convulsions in a cell with no air conditioning, no window or ventilation. According to prison records, the indoor heat index that week topped 150 degrees. By the time he arrived at the emergency room at Parkland Hospital, his body temperature was over 109 degrees and he was comatose.

The state’s newer prisons are worse

## Seattle forum discusses fight against deportations



Militant/Clay Dennison

SEATTLE — “We are in jail. They are getting ready to deport us. What else can they do to us?” José Moreno (speaking) said at an April 26 Militant Labor Forum here. “We might as well protest.” Moreno helped organize a hunger strike in March and April by 750 immigrant worker inmates protesting prison conditions at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma and their threatened deportations. He has been released while his case is being appealed.

The panel included (from left) Maru Villalpando from Latino Advocacy, meeting chair John Naubert, and Edwin Fruit from the Socialist Workers Party.

Officials at the privately run prison tried to break the strikers’ spirits by putting more than 20 participants in solitary confinement.

Villalpando said that because of the public demonstrations and wide coverage of the protest action, prison authorities released the last two held in solitary into the general population April 25. She invited forum-goers to attend the next mobilization outside the detention center on May 10.

— MARY MARTIN

than the older facilities, which have more windows that can be opened. The newer prisons supposedly rely on air-circulation systems, which according to several lawsuits, just move sweltering air around.

Last year prison officials spent \$750,000 to build six pig barns with a “climate-controlled environment,” including water misters that could lower summertime temperatures by up to 20 degrees.

## Rallies in Australia back women’s rights

BY JOANNE KUNIANSKY

SYDNEY — Rallies in support of a woman’s right to choose abortion took place outside the Preterm abortion clinic here March 29 and April 12. Organized by the Women’s Abortion Action Campaign and Sydney Feminists, the actions were called to counter a “Forty Days for Life, Pray to End Abortion,” around-the-clock prayer vigil by a dozen opponents of women’s rights targeting the clinic leading up to Easter.

Staffing an information tent decorated with hand-painted signs and banners defending abortion rights, about a dozen defenders of women’s rights were well

received by motorists and passersby, residents and workers in the neighborhood. Clinic nurses and staff made a point of thanking participants.

Supporters of women’s rights passed out leaflets opposing a proposed Foetal Personhood Law, which would recognize a fetus of 20 weeks or 400 grams as an “unborn child” who is “taken to be a living person” for certain violent crimes.

“It was refreshing and energizing to be so strongly reminded that over 80 percent of Australians support a woman’s right to choose abortion,” said Christine Smith of the Women’s Abortion Action Campaign.

## THE MILITANT

### Protest killings by US border cops!

*Increasing numbers of cops stationed at the U.S. border with Mexico have led to a rise in killings of working people by border cops. The ‘Militant’ covers protests against this brutality, as well as against deportations and other attacks on immigrants aimed at weakening labor.*



Reuters/Sandy Huffaker

Rally in Ysidro, Calif., last year near Mexico border against killings by U.S. border police.

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



# ‘Militant’ subscription, books campaign

Continued from front page  
newspaper that talks about how working people can unite.”

Werah was one of 388 readers who signed up last week as part of the *Militant’s* international drive to win 1,800 subscribers. Taking the socialist news-weekly and Pathfinder Press books on revolutionary politics broadly to working people in cities and rural areas opens a discussion on the big issues in world politics today.

Fourteen of the 83 subscribers won in London are renewals, a result of systematically following up on expiring subscriptions. Getting back promptly to those who bought a single issue has also led to several signing up.

A team of *Militant* supporters from Chicago and Des Moines, Iowa, spent two days in Harrisburg, a town of 9,000 in a coal-mining area in southern Illinois, reported Alyson Kennedy from Chicago May 5.

## International reporting trips spur contributions to ‘Militant’ fund

BY LEA SHERMAN

The Militant Fighting Fund has received \$41,989 in the April 5-May 27 campaign to raise \$115,000. The third week was the best yet with \$18,849 contributed. The annual drive goes hand-in-hand with the five-week spring *Militant* subscription campaign to win 1,800 readers.

The fighting fund finances operating expenses of the paper and international reporting trips. With no paid advertising, the socialist newsweekly published in the interests of working people depends on contributions from readers.

“Supporters in France have adopted a goal of raising \$400 to help finance the *Militant’s* activities, including sending teams to Mali, Burkina Faso, Egypt

A number were following events in Ukraine and were interested to learn that miners and other workers had played an important role in the mobilizations that ousted President Viktor Yanukovych, Kennedy said. People also wanted to talk about the deteriorating conditions in the mines and elsewhere, and what could be done to take this on. The team sold eight subscriptions, 13 singles and a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, one of 11 books on special offer with a subscription (see ad below).

“I want to get hired in the mines,” 27-year-old Brandon Ford who is unemployed, told *Militant* supporters when they met him May 3. “Some people say the government wants to shut down the mines because they’re not safe. But we need jobs.” He said he was friends with a miner who was killed in the nearby Willow Lake mine a year and a half ago.

“Safety depends on who controls

conditions on the job,” said Ilona Gersh, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Illinois. “Coal mining, fracking, the railroads are all deadly in the hands of the capitalist owners, who are only interested in making profits. Miners need to organize to get the United Mine Workers union in all the mines and for the power to stop working when conditions are unsafe. Workers control is critical to defend safety for workers and the community.”

### Mine portal sale

The team sold May 4 at the portal of the nonunion New Era Mine in Galatia, Illinois. A retired miner bought a subscription and seven miners got single copies. Two of them came out with their dollar ready after they heard about the sale from miners coming into work.

“We’ve had a good response going door to door in the Bayview neighborhood here, where there will be a showing of Antonio Guerrero’s prison paintings at the library tomorrow,” said Joel Britton by phone from San Francisco May 3. A group of women day laborers from the area joined in building the event and four of them subscribed.

*I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived* is a new Pathfinder book containing the paintings by Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five. Together with *Voices From Prison: The*



Militant/Jacque Henderson

Auto mechanic Steve Behnken, left, signs up for *Militant* subscription May 3 when David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for Iowa governor, comes to his door in Anita, Iowa.

*Cuban Five*, another new book, it is a powerful tool in the fight to free the five Cuban revolutionaries, framed up and jailed by the U.S. government in 1998 (See “Who Are the Cuban Five? on page 7).

Two days later Britton wrote that the event at the library was very successful.

“We sold six more subscriptions,” he wrote. “Two were renewals, one for six months.”

Britton said supporters have brought along a wider range of books when knocking on doors, and that it has helped political discussions and boosted sales.

Join the effort to expand the *Militant’s* readership! See page 8 for a distributor near you or contact the *Militant* at (212) 244-4899.

## Special offers with ‘Militant’ subscription

Militant Fighting Fund			
April 5 - May 27 (week 3)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$4,560	53%
Miami	\$2,800	\$1,467	52%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$4,187	52%
Des Moines	\$2,800	\$1,290	46%
Boston	\$3,500	\$1,375	39%
San Francisco	\$13,500	\$4,645	34%
Omaha/Lincoln	\$2,700	\$899	33%
New York	\$19,000	\$5,250	28%
Seattle	\$8,400	\$2,070	25%
Houston	\$3,500	\$840	24%
Philadelphia	\$3,800	\$866	23%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$2,150	23%
Twin Cities	\$6,500	\$1,410	22%
Washington	\$7,800	\$1,620	21%
Other		\$650	
Total U.S.	\$100,400	\$33,279	33%
CANADA	\$7,000	\$4,120	59%
NEW ZEALAND	\$5,000	\$1,570	31%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500	\$860	57%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,000	\$1,300	65%
Manchester	\$750	\$660	88%
Total UK	\$2,750	\$1,960	71%
France	\$400	\$200	50%
Total	\$117,050	\$41,989	37%
Should be	\$115,000	\$49,286	43%



**Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power**  
by Jack Barnes  
\$10 with subscription(regular \$20)

**The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning**  
The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism  
by Jack Barnes  
\$2 with subscription (regular \$3)

**Women in Cuba**  
The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution  
by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer  
\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)

**Women and Revolution**  
The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution  
by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others  
\$3 with subscription (regular \$7)

**Los cosméticos, las modas, y la explotación de la mujer**  
(Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women)  
by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, Mary-Alice Waters  
\$10 with subscription (regular \$15)

See distributors on page 8



**The Cuban Five**  
Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free from pages of the ‘Militant’  
\$3 with subscription (regular \$5)

**Cuba and Angola**  
Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own  
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\$6 with subscription(regular \$12)

**The Changing Face of U.S. Politics**  
Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions  
by Jack Barnes  
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by Mary-Alice Waters  
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# Outrage at Albuquerque cops

**Continued from front page**  
who releases a flash grenade near Boyd's feet. An apparently disoriented Boyd then turns his back to police and starts to turn away as cops order him to "get on the ground." Before Boyd can take a step he is shot six times and falls face-first to the ground. "I can't move," Boyd said — his last words given in response to police orders to put his hands up and drop a small knife in his hand. Cops then shot him with beanbag rounds and sicced a dog on him. Boyd — bleeding, unresponsive and limp — is then handcuffed and left in the dirt as cops leisurely searched his camp. Boyd died in a hospital the next day.

At a news conference that accompanied the Albuquerque Police Department's release of the video March 21, Police Chief Gordon Eden said the deadly force used against Boyd was justified.

In response, hundreds of protesters took to the streets March 25 and again March 30. "It has reached a boiling point, and people just can't take it anymore," Alexander Siderits, 23, told Associated Press at the 10-hour-long March 30 action. As the demonstration continued into the evening, city authorities declared it an unlawful assembly and sent riot police to disperse and provoke protesters with tear gas. Some people were led away in zip-tie restraints. At least six protesters were arrested on disorderly conduct charges.

"Officers of the Albuquerque Police Department engage in a pattern or practice of use of excessive force, including unreasonable deadly force, in violation of the Fourth Amendment," said the April 10 report by the Justice Department, concluding a 16-month investigation into assaults, use of Tasers and shootings. "A significant amount of the force ... was used

against persons with mental illness and in crisis."

The report "indicates what I've been saying for the last four years," Ellis said.

Hundreds of Albuquerque residents attended public hearings April 28-30, voicing their opinions about the police. Ellis attended, as well as Mike Gomez, whose son, Alan Gomez, 22, was shot and killed by an officer in May 2011. Cops surrounded the house of Alan's brother Eric Gomez after receiving a call from Eric's girlfriend that Alan wasn't allowing them to leave, the report said. The cop who killed him said he thought Alan Gomez was holding a gun, but police admit he was unarmed.

In March 2012 the *Albuquerque Journal* disclosed that the Albuquerque Police Officers' Association was giving payments to officers involved in shootings, supposedly to cope with trauma. Cop Sean Wallace, who shot Alan Gomez, was among the recipients. "You're telling police that if you shoot somebody you're going to get paid leave and you're going to get \$500," Mike Gomez told the *New York Times*, which reported the special payments have since been ended.

A month after Boyd's killing, an Albuquerque police officer fatally shot Mary Hawkes, a 19-year-old homeless woman who reportedly often slept in cars. Police Chief Eden said she was an auto theft suspect. Hawkes was gunned down during a foot chase.

## Chicago rally protests 'petcoke' dust near neighborhood

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO — More than 150 people gathered here April 26 for a march and rally to demand that city officials ban the storage of petroleum coke — known as petcoke — in the working-class neighborhoods of this city's Southeast Side.

### Illinois socialist candidate: Close down 'petcoke' site



Militant/Alyson Kennedy

CHICAGO — "BP decided to dump its petcoke here, in a working-class neighborhood," Ilona Gersh, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Illinois, told an April 26 rally here demanding the city government remove mounds of petroleum coke piled up along the Calumet River on the Southeast Side. "Workers and farmers create the wealth of this country and we should be the ones who decide what to do with it. To do that we need to take political power."

Gersh pointed to mass mobilizations in Ukraine that overthrew the hated government of President Viktor Yanukovych in February as an example of independent working-class political action.

"Today is the 28th anniversary of the nuclear plant explosion at Chernobyl in Ukraine," Gersh said. "As children began to develop cancer, revolutionary Cuba began bringing children and their families to Cuba for free medical care." More than 25,000 people, mostly children, have been treated under the program, which continues to this day.

"Cuba was able to do this because workers and farmers took power in 1959," Gersh said. "The Democrats and Republicans are the parties that support the interests of BP and the other big corporations. Working people need our own government. We need to organize."

— JOHN HAWKINS

## Calif. port drivers fight for union

**Continued from front page**  
also set up picket lines at entrances to the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles. Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union stayed off the job in solidarity for four hours on April 28 at the Long Beach port, before returning to work under an arbitrator's order.

Teamsters at the port of Savannah, Georgia, organized a similar 48-hour action.

When treated as "independent contractors" the drivers' take-home pay is cut because the company shifts costs for insurance, diesel fuel and some maintenance onto their backs. They are robbed of overtime pay and work breaks, and the trucking bosses say they are prohibited from joining unions. Drivers face victimization when they try.

The National Labor Relations Board recently ruled that Pacific 9 must inform drivers that they can join unions after union supporters there filed complaints that they faced company intimidation and threats of firing.

"We are fighting for our rights," Alejandro Paz, a driver with Total Transportation Services, told the *Militant* on the picket line. "The company is guilty of unfair labor practices. They use intimidation. And they have lowered the number of loads we carry."

Paz recently filed a complaint with the

California division of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration over conditions at Total Transportation Services. "It's really bad in the TTSI truck yard where I work," he told the *Long Beach Press Telegram*. "The portable toilets are disgusting and they rarely even give us toilet paper. I get sick from all the dust we breathe in the yard, and there is trash in the truck the company leases me, and they charge me to maintain it. I just want to work in a safe place and that is my right under Cal/OSHA."

"I have been here for three years," said Yesene Rivas at the picket line. "At first it was good. Since a year ago it has been no good. Sometimes we used to get seven loads, now sometimes it can be as few as one or two a day."

Total Transportation Services declined requests for comment by the *Militant*.

"During this 48 hours, the truck drivers definitely rocked the companies' chair," said Santos Castaneda, a young organizer for Teamsters Local 848, who led the picketing. "The drivers were not only able to send a message to the company but we showed how powerful we are when we come together and fight. These drivers are not only fighting for themselves but for their families and all the port truck drivers. They are making their voices heard. There will be no more silence."

Towering open piles of petcoke dust, a waste product from the refining of heavy oil, are being stored along the Calumet River in southeastern Chicago by KCBX Terminals Co. and Beemsterboer Slag Corp.

The BP oil refinery in nearby Whiting, Indiana, which produces the petcoke, is barred from storing uncovered dust there, but no such restriction exists in Chicago.

BP recently completed an overhaul that will more than triple its petcoke output to 2.2 million tons a year.

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*Capitalism "reproduces its social relations as a condition of producing its profits. ... its workings, its blind methods of functioning, keep grinding toiling humanity into the ground."* — Jack Barnes



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New International  
No. 12 — \$16



**Our Politics Start With the World**  
by Jack Barnes  
New International  
No. 13 — \$14

**See distributors on page 8  
or visit [pathfinderpress.com](http://pathfinderpress.com)**

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### GEORGIA

**Atlanta**  
**Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class.** Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

### CANADA

**Montreal**  
**The Temporary Worker Program: Oppose Ottawa's Attack on Immigrant Workers.** Speaker: Michel Dugré, Communist League. Fri., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland**  
**The Struggle Against Anti-Chinese Racism, 1865 to Today: The Contrasting Cases of the U.S. and Cuba.** Fri., May 16, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. 188a Onehunga Mall. Tel.: (09) 636-3231.



# Postal workers protest plans to cut jobs, undermine union

BY KEVIN COLE  
AND NORTON SANDLER

LOS ANGELES — On a crowded street here April 24, 100 postal workers and their supporters picketed a Staples store chanting, “U.S. mail is not for sale.” They were protesting the U.S. Postal Service’s deal with the office supply chain to open mail counters in Staples stores where workers have no union and are paid less than postal employees.

The protest was part of a day of action called by the American Postal Workers Union in 56 locations in 27 states. Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union also took part.

The Staples pilot program began in November 2013 and includes 82 stores in California, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Massachusetts.

According to the Letter Carriers Union, the Postal Service has eliminated more than 193,000 jobs since 2006, 630 post offices have been closed and post office bosses say they plan to close 229 facilities by the end of the year.

“They are trying to bust our union,” said James Russell, a steward in Postal Workers Local 917 in Anaheim.

“The main issue is jobs. This is a form of outsourcing,” said Phil Warlick, the Postal Workers’ California legislative director. “Will the American people tolerate the transfer of a public institution to private interests?”

“Good jobs are being lost to a poorly run Staples,” said Cheryl deVaux from Local 917. “Even the one we are picketing is closing.”

Some 60 postal workers and supporters protested at a Staples in Atlanta.

“This is part of the Postal Service’s plan to downsize and close post offices, and eliminate jobs that pay a living wage,” said Judy Johnson, a post office clerk. “Staples employees are mostly part-time and get no benefits.”

“If you contract out to Staples, more

post offices will be closed in rural areas with working-class communities,” said Lamont Brooks, assistant director of the Postal Workers union’s Clerk Division.

“This pilot program isn’t in D.C. yet,” William Colbert, an electronic technician and member of the Postal Workers union, said at the protest of 200 in Washington. “But we can’t fight it city by city. We have to stand together because the labor movement is under attack.”

*Arlene Rubinstein and Omari Musa in Washington, D.C., and Janice Lynn in Atlanta contributed to this article.*



Militant/Janice Lynn

Postal Service has laid off tens of thousands and made deal with Staples bosses to open postal services at retail stores. Above, protest in Atlanta during April 24 National Day of Action.

## GM covered up defect, seeks immunity from suits over deaths

BY EMMA JOHNSON

For more than a decade General Motors knew about faulty ignition switches in their cars that have caused hundreds of deaths, but did nothing except try to cover it up, according to mounting lawsuits and investigations. Now GM officials say their 2009 bankruptcy should protect them from paying any damages.

In February and March, GM made two recalls for a total of 2.6 million vehicles with faulty ignition switches and brakes. The company has confirmed that if bumped or weighed down by a heavy key chain, the ignition can shut off engines and power systems and disable airbags. Flaws in the brake system can cause overheating and engine fires. The recalls affect models with faulty ignition switches produced in 2003-2007 and brake system problems in 2013 and 2014.

GM has conceded that 13 deaths and 32 crashes are linked to defective ignition switches. According to a report on air-bag failures by Friedman Research Corp., 303 passengers were killed from 2003 to 2012 when air bags failed to open in two of the recalled models.

Family members of some of those killed were present when Congressio-

nal committees held hearings with GM CEO Mary Barra April 1-2.

“Stop the games, stop the cover-up, get the 2.5 million cars off the road,” Renee Trautwein, whose daughter Sarah Trautwein, 19, was killed in a crash in 2009, said on MSNBC’s Jansing & Company show after attending the hearings April 2.

Internal GM documents released by a House committee March 30 show that the company chose between two ignition switches in 2001, and went for the cheaper one, even though there were reports of failures in pre-production tests. They started installing the bad switches in 2003 models.

Supplier Delphi reported in 2002 that the part didn’t meet GM’s own specifications. But GM made a business decision not to fix the problem. Gary Altman, engineering manager of the Cobalt model, closed an investigation into the ignition switch in 2004 because “none of the solutions presents an acceptable business case.” The cost would have been less than \$1 per car.

In 2005 GM sent a bulletin to car dealerships saying that it would provide inserts to tighten the key-ring hole to reduce jostling of the key inside the ignition for customers who com-

plained about ignition shutoffs. Then in 2006 GM quietly changed the ignition for its 2007 models. The company issued no report and didn’t even alter the part number, which lawsuits point to as an attempted cover-up.

The change was discovered by investigators who initially couldn’t figure out why reports of shutoffs and air-bag failures dropped off with 2007 models. Top company officials, from lead engineer Ray DeGiorgio to CEO Barra, claim they knew nothing about it.

Government investigations include a criminal probe by the Justice Department, investigations by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and inquiries by House and Senate committees.

GM says it faces 55 lawsuits in the U.S. and five in Canada related to the ignition recall and that it will “vigorously defend” itself in all cases. The company’s stance is that it should be immune from any “economic loss” lawsuits related to the faulty ignition because of its 2009 government-backed bankruptcy. The time to seek compensation for pre-2009 claims “has long passed,” said GM’s lead bankruptcy lawyer Harvey Miller.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 19, 1989

The decision of prison authorities at the Iowa State Men’s Reformatory in Anamosa to bar literature of every language except the one they are capable of censoring — English — is an outrageous violation of human and constitutional rights and should be vigorously protested by all supporters of free speech and human dignity.

Unionist and political activist Mark Curtis, who is serving a 25-year jail sentence in Anamosa on phony charges of rape and burglary, sent a letter to the New York business office of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. Curtis informed them that he would no longer be able to receive his subscription to *PM* because prison authorities had arbitrarily decided to ban for “security” reasons all literature that is not in English.

The censorship order aims to restrict the ability of Curtis — and his fellow prisoners — to have a serious political relationship with the outside world.



May 18, 1964

LOS ANGELES — About 2,500 men from the almost all-Negro 53rd Assembly District met at Wrigley Field here May 7 in an “unemployed conference.” The very force of the turnout made the conference a demonstration against unemployment — the first this city has seen since the depression years of the 1930s.

The unemployed men who spoke before the conference included a welder and a concrete worker, both in their 40s, a radio-TV technician and an untrained man, both in their 20s. They spoke of racial discrimination, lack of training and the lack of enough jobs to go around. One father of ten children — a skilled electrician — had exhausted all his unemployment compensation, which means he had been out of work more than 39 weeks.

A reoccurring comment from the jobless men was “We’ve got to stick together.”



May 19, 1939

Up until Feb. 21, 1934, the day he achieved international notoriety by murdering Sandino, the agrarian leader of Nicaragua’s independence movement, the career of the present guest of honor at the White House, Anastasio Somoza, alias “El General,” was of a shady and prison-record type. A series of crimes and betrayals since that time have brought him to power, the first [time] through a puppet president and finally through his own installation in the presidency (for an indefinite period, he thinks) as the absolute lord of the lives and property of the Nicaraguans.

This post he enjoys today to the greater glory of Mr. Roosevelt’s Democracy and Good Neighbor policy. Two months before he shook the friendly hand of the “democrat” F.D.R., he re-elected himself supreme potentate for nine more years through a faked “Constitutional Congress.” Hence his boss in Washington can count for a certain period on a loyal henchman.

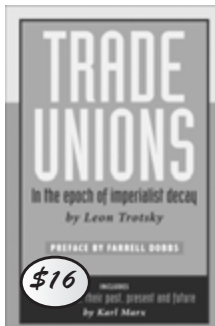
### Statement by Eleanor García, Socialist Workers candidate for California governor

“Workers everywhere should stand with postal workers against these attempts to gut their unions,” said aerospace worker and socialist candidate Eleanor García. “At the same time Staples workers face non-union conditions and low pay. The labor movement must reach out to them and organize them into unions.”

### Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay by Leon Trotsky

Also “Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future” by Karl Marx

Trade unions  
“must convince  
the world at  
large that their  
efforts, far from  
being narrow and  
selfish, aim at the  
emancipation of  
the downtrodden  
millions.” — Marx



PathfinderPress.com



# International Workers' Day — from Dhaka to Yakima



Reuters/Andrew Biraj

Above, garment workers march in Dhaka, Bangladesh, May 1, demanding wage raises, safer workplaces and union rights. Inset, many farm and cannery workers joined May Day march to protest deportations of immigrant workers in Yakima, Washington.



Militant/Clay Dennison

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Workers who have been involved in recent labor and political battles around the world took to the streets May Day to stake out political space they've won through struggle.

In **Bangladesh** thousands of garment workers marched in the capital Dhaka on International Workers' Day, demanding a raise in the minimum wage, safer workplaces and union rights.

Garment workers there won a 77 percent increase in the minimum wage last year after six months of sustained strike mobilizations. Demonstrators also demanded compensation for the more than 1,100 garment workers killed and hundreds more injured in the 2012 Tazreen Fashions factory fire and Rana Plaza factory building collapse last year.

In **Indonesia**, tens of thousands rallied in cities across the country for the first time as part of an official government holiday, a concession won after several years of May 1 mobilizations by the country's burgeoning labor movement. About 30,000 demonstrators in Jakarta demanded a 30 percent increase in the minimum wage, which was raised to \$206 last month.

Among those in the Jakarta action were women who used to work for the Panarub Dwikarya factory making Adidas shoes. In 2012, 1,300 workers struck over working conditions, 65-hour workweeks and wages. The company offered a "voluntary" resignation with a \$140 severance pay. Workers who refused the offer were fired. The workers, all women, still protest weekly outside the factory demanding payment.

In **Turkey**, the government banned May 1 demonstrations at Taksim Square, the traditional meeting site for trade union marches in Istanbul. Parts of the city were locked down, much of public transportation closed and 40,000 cops deployed.

Thousands defied the ban and were assaulted by cops, who employed tear gas and water cannons. More than 140 were arrested and 90 people injured. Last summer Taksim Square was the center of protests against the government, involving 2 million people demanding political and democratic rights for religious and national minorities,

women and unions. Seven people were killed by cops in those actions.

In **Cambodia**, the government in January issued a ban on gatherings in public places after a government crackdown on a nationwide strike for a higher minimum wage by hundreds of thousands of garment workers. Cops and military personnel killed five and injured dozens. The ban was partially lifted in February, but enforced again as of May 1.

Freedom Park, the rallying point for the May 1 demonstrations in Phnom Penh, was sealed off with barbed wire and all roads leading there were barricaded by cops. Some 1,000 factory workers and supporters gathered near the park to demand improved living conditions and a lifting of the ban on public assembly.

Uniformed cops and plainclothes goons attacked the demonstrators; at least two were badly injured.

In **Russia**, some 100,000 rallied in Moscow to support President Vladimir Putin, Moscow's annexation of Crimea and continued attempts to destabilize

## May Day marches in Cuba 'make the earth shake'



Associated Press/Ismael Francisco

HAVANA — President Raúl Castro's call for May Day marches that would "make the earth shake," became the slogan for the day. More than 2 million turned out for marches around the country, with Cuban media reporting 1 million here, where contingents assembled before dawn; 600,000 in Santiago de Cuba; and 100,000 or more in various provincial capitals.

In Havana, large contingents from the country's 17 national unions put their stamp on the march. Health workers were at the front behind a giant banner saying, "Workers united in the construction of socialism," followed by construction workers. The final contingents consisted of students from high schools, universities and military schools.

For two hours, starting at 7:30 a.m., the huge contingents marched through the Plaza of the Revolution, past a reviewing stand that included René González and Fernando González, the two members of the Cuban Five who have been released from U.S. prisons. Signs demanding the return of their three comrades — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero — could be seen throughout the march.

The atmosphere was festive. People brought drums and music, and there was dancing and improvised conga lines as the contingents waited on side streets for their turn to enter the Paseo and march into the Plaza.

— MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

Ukraine. On the other hand, about 1,500 in St. Petersburg marched to condemn Moscow's intervention, singing the Ukrainian national anthem. A contingent defending gay rights also took part in the St. Petersburg action without being attacked, unlike in previous years.

Hundreds also demonstrated in a handful of cities across the **United States**, where International Workers' Day was born to commemorate the May 1886 government crackdown on the fight for the eight-hour working day in Chicago's Haymarket Square. Central demands of this year's actions were an end to deportations, E-Verify checks and other government attacks on immigrant workers. A number of actions,

including in New York, Los Angeles and Seattle, also called for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage.

Nearly 100 people gathered at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, to support inmates on hunger strike at the immigration jail. Some then car-pooled to join a demonstration of 1,500 in Seattle. Another rally of 700, mostly farm and cannery workers, was organized in Yakima.

Some 500 people assembled at Haymarket Square in Chicago and marched through downtown to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office. About 300 demonstrated in Milwaukee, 1,000 in Los Angeles and roughly 1,500 at each of two actions in New York City.

## US embargo on Cuba part of unbroken attack on revolution

BY SETH GALINSKY

In mid-April the Treasury Department imposed a fine of nearly \$6 million on Dutch-based Carlson Wagonlit Travel for violating Washington's Trading with the Enemy Act. One of the largest travel agencies in the world, Carlson Wagonlit sold travel services to 44,430 people who visited Cuba from 2006 to 2012, after U.S. corporations bought a majority stake in the company.

The Treasury Department initially threatened an \$11 million fine, but cut it in half because Carlson Wagonlit "provided substantial cooperation" and agreed to waive any protection it had under the statute of limitations, giving the government "detailed and well-organized documents."

The move is an example of the U.S. rulers' unremitting hostility toward revolutionary Cuba — one of the most constant features of U.S. foreign policy for more than half a century. This has included thwarted military invasions and assassinations; numerous acts of

sabotage and terror; and a trade embargo designed to maximize hardship on the island. With different and shifting tactics, the aim has remained the same: to overturn the revolution that rid the country of a U.S.-backed tyranny and brought workers and farmers to power.

After overthrowing the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, who fled the country on Jan. 1, 1959, Cuban working people, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, carried out a deep-going land reform that gave land to peasants, began to organize workers' control in workplaces across the island and, in the words of the Havana Declaration of 1960, condemned "the governments that ignore the sentiments of their people in order to obey Washington's dictates."

In response, President Dwight Eisenhower banned U.S. exports to Cuba in October 1960. In February 1962 President John F. Kennedy made it a near-total embargo. With small modifications, it has been maintained by every U.S. administration since.

"During the government of President Obama, the blockade has been intensified," Cuba's Minister of Foreign Affairs Bruno Rodríguez told the U.N. General Assembly Oct. 29 before the body voted 188-2 to condemn the U.S. embargo for the 22nd year in a row.

In March the Cuban Embassy in the Dominican Republic announced that its account with the supermarket PriceSmart was cancelled under pressure from Washington. The *Wall Street Journal* reported March 7 that the Treasury Department is investigating French banks Société Générale SA and Crédit Agricole SA for embargo violations.

At an April 30 press conference, Department of State spokesperson Marie Harf was asked repeatedly why Cuba has been on the U.S. government's list of "State Sponsors of Terrorism" since 1982. "We have no plans to take them off the list," Harf replied. When a reporter said, "I just need to press you on why," Harf answered, "I'll keep saying the same thing if you keep asking."



# Nebraska: Prison paintings attract support for Cuban 5

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — “This is a good beginning in Nebraska, to get more people aware of the case of the Cuban Five and why they should be free,” Mark Vasina, president of Nebraskans for Peace, told the *Militant* at an event at the Malone Community Center here opening an exhibit of prison paintings by Antonio Guerrero titled, “I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived.”

More than 40 people visited the April 22-23 exhibit before it moved across town for display at the Meadowlark Coffee and Espresso for six days, which started with a similar opening event.

**Exhibits of paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five**  
***I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived***  
**Omaha, Nebraska**

**May 17**  
Malcolm X Center, 3448 Evans St.

**June 4-7**  
Gallery 72, 1806 Vinton St. Reception, Wed, June 4, 7PM. Gallery Talk, Sat., June 7, 1PM

**June 8-14**  
McFoster’s Natural Kind Café, 302 S. 38th St.

**New York**  
**May 3-17**  
Jackie Robinson Center, 110 E. 129th St., Manhattan. Exhibit hours: Mon.-Fri. 7-9PM. Sat. 12-5PM. Closing program, Sat., May 17, 12-3PM. Tel.: (212) 348-7900.

**Washington, D.C.**  
**May 17**  
Showing 6-9PM, program at 7PM. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW. Tel: (202) 641-8220

**Sydney, Australia**  
**May 9-11**  
Opening event, Fri., May 9, 6:30PM. Gallery, Addison Road Community Centre, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville. Exhibit hours: Sat., 11AM-3PM; Sun., 9AM-3PM. Tel.: 0413 450 981.

**Montreal**  
**May 5-24**  
Exhibit hours: Mon. 8AM-4PM, Tues., Wed. 8AM-7PM, Thurs., Fri. 8AM-8PM, Sat. 10AM-8PM. Café l’Artère, 7000 Ave. Du Parc Tel: (514) 232-1917.

**Manchester, England**  
**May 17-31**  
Opening event, Sat., May 17, 6PM. Exhibit hours: Mon.-Sat. 9AM-5PM. Moston Miners Community Arts and Music Centre, Teddington Road, Moston. Tel.: 0161 682 6253.

**Athens, Greece**  
**May 7-10**  
Opening event, Wed., May 7, 7:30PM. Ernesto Art Cafe, Prousis 9, Nea Philadelphia.

“This center threw its doors open wide to everyone in the community years ago when many places here excluded African-Americans,” said Larry Williams, executive director of the Malone Center, who welcomed people to the event there. “This beautiful exhibit is part of our efforts to continue opening doors to people, with their culture and their exposure of injustice.”

In addition to the Malone Community Center, sponsors of the two exhibits included Nebraskans for Peace, Nebraskans for Justice, Metro Gallery, Meadowlark Coffee and Espresso and Amnesty International Local Group 173.

“I got one of those mailings, I’m not even sure from which of these organizations, but I knew I had to come,” said Jean Eden, who works with a prisoner support group. Pointing to the picture of Fernando González on the wall, she said, “You see, years ago I visited this man in jail in Wisconsin. I am very glad he is finally back in his country, but we have to let people know that three remain in jail,” referring to Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Guerrero.

“When working people and others from different walks of life learn about the Cuban Five, including facts on their frame-up and conditions of their imprisonment, many identify with their struggle,” said Joe Swanson, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in Nebraska and one of the speakers. “Millions have had a bitter taste of U.S. capitalist ‘justice’ or know someone close to them who has.

“The paintings, and the stories that go with them, show the brutality of the prison system, as well as the discipline, integrity, courage and creative spirit with which the Five have resisted,” Swanson said. “They highlight the kind of exemplary human beings who have been forged in the Cuban Revolution, and the caliber of working-class fighters that is needed to build that kind of movement in the U.S. and around the world. The Five were framed up and jailed because they represent the men and women of Cuba who for 55 years have refused to submit to Washington’s dictates.”

**Cuba’s aid to Chernobyl victims**  
Steve Larrick, one of 30 people at the event, said that in the early 1990s he had a neighbor who moved to Nebraska from Ukraine after the 1986 explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant there. “I did what I could to help and I know some people got some help from others,” Larrick said. “But there was no program to help people.

“Until I read it in the *Militant* last week,” he continued, “I had no idea that Cuba set up a special program, treating thousands of children and others regardless of cost and that the program continues to this day. That is so different!”

Speaker Richard Hargesheimer of Nebraskans for Justice talked about the case of Mondo we Langa and Edward Poindexter, known as the Omaha 2, who were framed up in the death of a police officer in 1970. “They are innocent. They are still in jail after all this time. Like the Cuban Five, we must fight for their freedom,” he said.

More than \$800 was contributed at the events to help cover the costs of framing and displaying the art.



Militant photos by Jacquie Henderson  
**Event with talks and performances opened watercolor exhibit by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five, at Meadowlark Coffee and Espresso April 25 in Lincoln, Nebraska.**


“This was a great example of a project that was carried out by many people, each of whom played an important part in carrying out a multifaceted endeavor,” said Christy Hargesheimer, who together with Richard Hargesheimer helped build the exhibit, raise money and prepare the displays.

L.J. Meyers, a member of the Lincoln Central Labor Council, visited the Malone exhibit on the second day after learning about it at the council’s April board meeting where Mike Arnold, president of Communications Workers Local 7472, gave a presentation on the Cuban Five. “I am so pleased that the paintings were exhibited in Lincoln as part of the world tour so more people can find out who the Cuban Five are,” she said.

A table in the center of the room featured material from Nebraskans for Justice on the fight to free the Omaha 2, including art that we Langa painted in prison. Also on the table were prints of Guerrero’s paintings for sale and the Malone Center’s brochure. Another table had refreshments provided by the center. A third table featured the *Militant* and books on revolutionary politics from

Pathfinder Press. Ten *Militant* subscriptions and 25 books on revolutionary working-class politics, including nine on the Cuban Five, were bought at the two exhibits. On May 17 the exhibit will open at the Malcolm X Center in Omaha, on the city’s north side. From June 4 to 7 it will be at Gallery 72 in south Omaha; and from June 8 to 14 it will show at the McFoster’s Natural Kind Café. A gallery in Kansas City has requested the exhibit for July after learning about it from Richard and Christy Hargesheimer.


**Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five**



The Cuban Five have won the respect of thousands around the world as well as fellow prisoners. Here three who have known them behind bars speak out. Includes accounts of prison life and resistance by Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Elizabeth Palmeiro and Rafael Cancel Miranda. Also in Spanish.

**\$7. Special publication offer \$5**

**‘I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived’**




Fifteen watercolors by Antonio Guerrero for the 15th anniversary of the imprisonment of the Cuban Five. With text by Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino. Also in Spanish.

**\$7. Special publication offer \$5**

**pathfinderpress.com**

**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 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.

René González returned to Cuba in May 2013. Fernando González returned Feb. 28.



# Our problem is international: ‘a problem for humanity’

*Below is an excerpt from February 1965: The Final Speeches by Malcolm X, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. It contains speeches and interviews Malcolm gave during the last three weeks of his life. In this Feb. 16, 1965, speech at Corn Hill Methodist Church in Rochester, New York, he talks about the Organization of Afro-American Unity, founded in June 1964 after his break with the Nation of Islam three months earlier. Copyright © 1992 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MALCOLM X

[W]e set up the Organization of Afro-American Unity, in which anybody in the community could participate in an action program designed to bring about complete recognition and respect of Black people as human beings.

The motto of the Organization of Afro-American Unity is “By any means necessary.” We don’t believe in fighting a battle in which the ground rules are to be laid down by those who suppress us. We don’t believe that we can win in a battle where the ground rules are laid down by those who exploit us. We don’t believe that we can carry on a struggle trying to win the affection of those who for so long have oppressed and exploited us.



Militant/Robert Parent

**Malcolm X speaking at founding meeting of Organization of Afro-American Unity, June 28, 1964. Group was set up so “anybody in the community could participate in an action program designed to bring about complete recognition and respect of Black people as human beings.”**

We believe that our fight is just. We believe that our grievances are just. We believe that the evil practices against Black people in this society are criminal and that those who engage in such criminal practices are to be looked upon themselves as nothing but criminals. And we believe that we are within our rights to fight those criminals by any means necessary.

This doesn’t mean that we’re for violence. But we have seen that the federal government has shown its inability, its absolute unwillingness, to protect the lives and the property of Black people. We have seen where organized white racists, Klansmen, Citizens’ Councilmen, and others can come into the Black community and take a Black man and make him disappear and nothing be done about it. We have seen that they can come in. [Applause] ...

As long as your problem is fought within the American context, all you can get as allies is fellow Americans. As long as you call it civil rights, it’s a domestic problem within the jurisdiction of the United States government. And the United States government consists of segregationists, racists. Why, the most powerful men in the government are racists. This government is controlled by thirty-six committees, twenty congressional committees and sixteen senatorial committees. Thirteen of the twenty

congressmen that head up the congressional committees are from the South. Ten of the sixteen senators that control the senatorial committees are from the South. Which means that of the thirty-six committees that govern the foreign and domestic directions and temperament of the country in which we live, of the thirty-six, twenty-three of them are in the hands of racists. Outright, stone-cold, dead segregationists. This is what you and I are up against. We are in a society where the power is in the hands of those who are the worst breed of humanity.

Now how are we going to get around them? How are we going to get justice in a Congress that they control? Or a Senate that they control? Or a White House that they control? Or from a Supreme Court that they control?

You say, “Well, look at the beautiful decision that the Supreme Court handed down.” Brother, look at it! Don’t you know these men on the Supreme Court are masters of legal—not only of law, but legal phraseology. They are such masters of the legal language that they could very easily have handed down a desegregation decision on education so worded that no one could have gotten around. But they come up with that thing worded in such a way that here ten years have passed, and there’s all kind of loopholes in it. They knew what they

were doing. They pretend to give you something while knowing all the time you can’t utilize it.

They come up last year with a civil rights bill that they publicized all around the world as if it would lead us into the promised land of integration. Oh yeah! Just last week, the Right Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King came out of the jailhouse and went to Washington, D.C., saying he’s going to ask every day for new legislation to protect voting rights for Black people in Alabama. Why? You just had legislation. [Laughter] You just had a civil rights bill. You mean to tell me that that highly publicized civil rights bill doesn’t even give the federal government enough power to protect Black people in Alabama who don’t want to do anything but register? Why, it’s another foul trick, the same as you’ve tricked us year in and year out. Another foul trick. [Applause]

So, since we see — I don’t want you to think I’m teaching hate. I love everybody who loves me. [Laughter] But I sure don’t love those who don’t love me. [Laughter]

Since we see all of this subterfuge, this trickery, this maneuvering — it’s not only at the federal level, the national level, the local level, and all levels. The young generation of Blacks that’s coming up now can see that as long as we wait for the Congress and the Senate and the Supreme Court and the president to solve our problems, you’ll have us going in circles for another thousand years. And there aren’t no days like those. ...

So one of the first steps that we became involved in, those of us who got into the Organization of Afro-American Unity, was to come up with a program that would make our grievances international and make the world see that our problem was no longer a Negro problem or an American problem, but a human problem. A problem for humanity. And a problem which should be attacked by all elements of humanity. A problem that was so complex that it was impossible for Uncle Sam to solve it himself. And therefore we want to get into a body or conference of people who are in such positions that they can help us get some kind of adjustment for this situation before it gets so explosive that no one can handle it.

### May BOOKS OF THE MONTH

**PATHFINDER  
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#### February 1965: The Final Speeches

by Malcolm X  
Speeches from the last three weeks of the life of this outstanding leader of the oppressed Black nationality and of the working class in the U.S. \$19. **Special price: \$14.25**



#### My Life

by Leon Trotsky  
\$35. **Special price: \$26.25**

#### Samizdat

**Voices of the Soviet Opposition**  
by George Saunders  
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

#### Reform or Revolution

by Rosa Luxemburg  
Why capitalism cannot overcome its internal contradictions and the working class cannot “reform” away exploitation and economic crises. \$14. **Special price: \$10.50**



#### Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy

Speeches, vol. 1, 1975-80  
by Fidel Castro  
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# Fight for workers control on the job!

BY REBECCA WILLIAMSON

What is the root cause of the oil train derailment in Lynchburg, Virginia, April 30? The capitalist profit drive, which, in the face of cut-throat competition, pushes the rail bosses to put lives at risk for the highest returns. By chance nobody was killed this time.

Only the use of union power by working people can protect the lives of train workers, commuters and residents who live near tracks. Government safety bureaucrats openly seek a “balance” between safety and profit, while their main function is to cover for the bosses and ensure the profit system is not impinged.

In the course of working-class struggles, we can build unions strong enough to exert control over conditions on the job. On the railroads, we could start by reducing trains to 50 cars; bring back the caboose at the rear of every train; reinstitute eight-hour days with adequate rest; and double the crew size to four — two in the back and two on the engine. We need workers control policed by unions strong enough to bring trains to a halt when necessary to impose safe operation.

We would also demand bosses open their books for workers’ inspections and lift the veil of secrecy over the capitalists’ operations and their collusion with the government against us.

These are the kind of demands we can fight for today. Such a fight would strengthen our unions, win

popular support and boost the confidence of workers and farmers.

It’s also important to recognize that energy production and its transport — whether by train or pipeline — is not the problem. In fact, class-conscious workers champion the expansion of energy production and industrialization, particularly in the less developed parts of the world where the working class is growing today as capitalist exploitation reaches to every corner of the globe. This development is essential to lift out of darkness some one-third of the world’s human population who lack access to electricity; to accelerate the growth of literacy, culture and working-class forms of struggle; to bring the conditions and experiences of workers in the imperialist countries and semicolonial world closer together; and provide new opportunities for international solidarity in action.

The growing numbers of oil train disasters, the recent natural gas explosion in New York that brought down two apartment buildings, the injuries and deaths of construction workers, assembly workers, miners, meat packers and more, show *how* and *for whom* capitalism is run.

This points to why workers and farmers, for the sake of humanity and nature, must build a movement that can advance a working-class course toward taking political power in the U.S. and around the world.

## Ukraine workers fight for sovereignty

Continued from front page

teer self-defense units.

More than 1,000 marched in Odessa May 2, including fans of both the local Chernomorets (Sailors) team and the visiting Metalists from Kharkiv, who were playing later that day. The supporters of Ukrainian unity were set upon by a couple hundred armed supporters of Russian annexation.

“The soccer fans were unarmed — they were marching with Ukrainian flags, while the opposite side appeared fully geared as if they came for war,” journalist Zoya Kazandzhy told the *Kiev Post*. “Citizens quickly organized themselves and that’s the only thing that helped us yesterday.”

As outnumbered attackers began retreating, they opening fire with Kalashnikovs and pistols. A young football fan was fatally shot.

After a more than one-hour battle, the vigilantes fled into the nearby Trade Union building. The two sides continued to hurl Molotov cocktails and other projectiles at each other and the building caught on fire. Led by self-defense units, supporters of Ukrainian sovereignty rescued several dozen attackers by bringing a scaffold up to the wall so they could escape safely from windows on the second and third floor. Self-defense forces also protected escaping provocateurs from angry demonstrators seeking retribution for the attack on their action.

Ukrainian government authorities report 46 dead, eight from the street violence and the rest from the burning building. Hundreds were injured. Of the bodies recovered from the building, 15 were Russian citizens and five from the Russian-occupied breakaway region of Transnistria in nearby Moldova, according to the *Kiev Post*.

Ukrainian cops, who stood aside during the melee, arrested more than 100 pro-Moscow attackers who were still on the roof after the fire department arrived more than an hour after the fire started.

On May 4, anti-Ukraine gangs attacked the police station, and the cops released those in custody.

Russian government-controlled media twisted the events of May 2 to smear supporters of Ukrainian sovereignty and fuel further provocations.

Moscow’s line is that the mass mobilizations that in February overthrew Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich were comprised of fascist anti-Semites operating under orders from Washington with the goal of provoking war between Ukraine and Russia.

RT, an English-language pro-Russian news media, ran an interview with Serbian historian Nebojsa Malic May 5 promoting a fantastic conspiracy claiming that those who attacked the pro-Ukrainian rally were

not pro-Moscow forces, but “Right Sector people deployed to Odessa in order to both create a powerful atrocity to draw Russia into open conflict and intimidate any sort of population that is against the coup government [the interim Ukrainian government that replaced the Yanukovich regime] by saying, ‘Look, if you continue opposing us, we’ll murder you in the most gruesome manner possible.’”

At the same time, pro-Moscow annexationist forces continue to occupy government buildings in Donetsk, Luhansk, Slovyansk and other eastern cities. Ukrainian army units are attempting to isolate them in preparation for retaking the buildings.

In an anti-working-class slant typical of the U.S. big-business media, the *Wall Street Journal* described the May 2 events in Odessa as “rioting between pro- and anti-government mobs,” and called the Russian military operatives and thugs under their direction “assorted activists opposed to Kiev.”

### Tatars mobilize for Ukraine

The Russian government’s operation in east and south Ukraine echoes Moscow’s seizure of Crimea in March, where paramilitary thugs took over government buildings to create a pretext for an invasion by thousands of Russian troops, followed by a fraudulent referendum for “independence” at gunpoint to justify incorporation of the peninsula into Russia.

The Crimean Tatars, among Crimea’s earliest inhabitants who today comprise some 12 percent of the peninsula’s population, refused in their great majority to participate in the referendum. Moscow responded by barring the central leader of the Tatars, Mustafa Dzhemilev, from his Crimean homeland.

Dzhemilev drove to Crimea May 3, but was stopped at the border by Russian troops. Some 5,000 Tatars met him by the border, where they rallied in his support and against Russian occupation.

May 18 will be the 70th anniversary of the deportation of the entire Crimean Tatar population on orders of then Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, who slandered them en masse as agents of Adolf Hitler. Almost half the population died in the forced journey to Uzbekistan and other parts of the Soviet Union. Tatars began to return in large numbers in the 1990s.

“I plan to go to Crimea and try to get there on May 18,” Dzhemilev told a press conference in Kiev May 5. “It would be most prudent of the Crimean authorities to let me in.”

“Discriminatory laws have never stopped Crimean Tatars in the past,” he said. “Crimean Tatars are the fulcrum of resistance against the regime of occupation. We will not condone the occupation.”

## Va. train derailment

Continued from front page

derailed, several tipped and plunged into the James River, leaking their contents and igniting a fire with 100-foot-high flames.

By chance no one was killed. If the cars had tipped toward the city instead of the river, the devastation could have been much worse, Lynchburg City Manager Kimball Payne told the *Wall Street Journal*.

The explosion is the latest in growing numbers of such incidents over the past year. As transport of crude oil by rail has skyrocketed, rail bosses have resisted upgrading outdated tank cars or any other safety measures that might cut into profits. In fact, the bosses of industry and commuter rail have been “cutting costs” by chipping away at safety over decades.

The 105-car train, run by CSX Corp., originated in North Dakota’s Bakken shale region and was headed to Yorktown, Virginia, for shipment to refineries on the East Coast.

Hundreds were evacuated from downtown Lynchburg. Workers at the Griffin Pipe Foundry could not leave the factory until a portion of the derailed train was removed. The derailment occurred near a popular children’s museum, across a parking lot from the tracks.

### Explosive growth in crude oil shipment by rail

According to the Association of American Railroads, carloads of crude oil traveling by rail rose from 9,500 in 2008 to 233,000 in 2012 to more than 400,000 last year. From 1975 to 2012, federal records show railroad spills totaled 800,000 gallons of crude oil. In 2013 alone it was more than 1.15 million gallons, according to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

About two-thirds of the oil produced by new fracking technology in the Bakken shale oil fields is shipped by rail. Explosions from Bakken fields shipments over the past year included a train that derailed in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, last July killing 47 people and destroying much of the town; uncontrolled firebombs from a derailment near Aliceville, Alabama, in November; and a fiery crash near Casselton, North Dakota.

Over the past few decades, the railway bosses’ drive for profits has led to cuts in crew sizes and skimping on maintenance of aging tracks, switches and other equipment. Through concessions imposed on the unions in the 1980s and ’90s, caboose cars at the rear of the train where conductors could watch the train from behind were eliminated. Most trains today — some now extended to a mile long — are being run with a crew of just two, working longer hours with combined responsibilities and shorter breaks.

Passenger train derailments have also increased over the past year, including one in the Bronx, New York, Dec. 1 that killed four passengers and injured more than 70 people.

The vast majority of the 92,000 oil tanker cars that carry flammable liquids are older DOT-111 models, prone to puncture and corrosion. Government authorities have allowed rail bosses to put off compliance with needed upgrades and replacements to these cars. In 2011, railroads and car owners agreed “to beef up new cars with better protections and thicker steel,” reported the *New York Times*. “But they resisted improving safety features on the existing fleet because of cost.”

### Rail bosses keep routes, car contents secret

The government allows rail bosses to keep the contents of cars and routes secret. “Local and state officials complain that they receive very little information about when hazardous materials are shipped through their communities or how railroads pick their routes,” reported the *Times*.

At the same time, more workers are being killed on the job as part of the explosion in natural gas production, reports the Department of Labor. In West Virginia 13 workers died between 2008 and 2012, more than double the previous five-year period. Other states that are home to the profit-driven “energy boom,” like Texas, North Dakota and Pennsylvania have also seen a rise in worker fatalities, the *Charleston Gazette* reported May 6.