

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
**'Socialism on Trial' presents revolutionary program, fight for workers power**  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 78/NO. 23 JUNE 16, 2014

## Miners in Turkey 'need union power' to win safety

BY SETH GALINSKY

"All they care about is coal, coal, coal," miner Sezai Yildirim told Bianet, a Turkish news website. "You know how they say safety first; well, that's a lie." Two of Yildirim's brothers died in the May 13 fire that killed more than 300 miners at the Eynez mine run by the Soma Holding Corp.

Yildirim works at Ata Bacasi, one of the company's two other mines in Soma. When asked about safety training, he replied, "What training? They took us in the morning, handed us the helmet and boots and took us underground."

Miners at Soma's Ata Bacasi, Eynez and Isiklar mines have for weeks been refusing to go to work until safety conditions are improved.

"At first management's response was to say miners were off until June 1 and they would still get paid. But the workers insisted on safety measures," Cafer Alp, a leader of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey, told the *Militant* in a May 30 phone interview from Izmir, a couple hours drive from Soma. "There was

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## 'Militant' wages battle against censorship at federal prison

BY JOHN STUDER

On May 19, the *Militant* received a notice from the warden at the U.S. Penitentiary at Florence, Colorado, saying the paper's Dec. 30 issue was barred from the high security prison. Over the last year the *Militant* has fought — and won — several battles with prison authorities from Florida to Washington state over the paper's right to deliver to subscribers behind bars and the right of prisoners to read what they want.

The reason given for censorship of the *Militant* in the notification dated Feb. 7 was that "this publication is deemed inappropriate for the orderly running of the institution due to it containing articles pertaining to Revolutionary Communist Party in the USA and the need to overthrow the system." Included with the notice was the issue, apparently confiscated from inmate Jeremy Valerio, 43, a long-term subscriber and one of three subscribers in the prison.

In mid-December, before the issue in question was printed, the *Militant* received a letter from Valerio saying

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## Workers back united, independent Ukraine

Face separatist provocations, capitalist offensive



Petr Shelomovskiy/Demotix/Corbis

Demonstration in defense of Ukrainian sovereignty in Kharkiv, Ukraine, June 1.

BY JOHN STUDER

Hundreds of demonstrators carrying block-long ribbons in the colors of the Ukrainian flag marched June 1 through Kharkiv, Ukraine, against attacks and provocations by pro-Russian-government separatists in parts of the eastern provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk. At the same time, Ukrainian miners and other workers are fighting bosses — Russian and Ukrainian alike — for higher wages and better working conditions as they face impending layoffs and government cuts to pensions and other social expenditures.

While a new wave of separatist disruptions has been reinforced by new

forces entering from Russia, infighting and divisions have grown among the various anti-Ukraine groups.

On May 29 the Vostok Battalion seized the Donetsk regional administration building from other separatist forces led by Denis Pushilin. The battalion "identified themselves as Russian citizens, with many saying they were from the Autonomous Republic of Chechnya," reported the *Kyiv Post*.

The next day the building was under the control of Alexander Borodai, a former Russian consultant for an investment fund, who proclaimed himself "prime minister" of the "Donetsk People's Republic." Borodai is allied

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## Cuban 5: 'our example of dignity and standing up to imperialism'

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — "Millions of people in this country have the same experience as Antonio, living like an insect trapped in a box," said Patricia Carbajal, who works two jobs as a housekeeper and banquet worker, after viewing prison paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and imprisoned by the U.S. government in 1998. "But Antonio is our example for standing

up to imperialism with dignity and for defending the Cuban Revolution with his life."

Seventy-five people attended the May 17 debut here of "I Will Die the Way I've Lived," a collection of 15 watercolors by Guerrero.

"These watercolors scream out how unjust and unfair Antonio's imprisonment is," Rev. Brian Hamilton told the *Militant*. "The American people are victimized by the U.S. government policy toward Cuba. It leaves us out."

Hamilton is a co-pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church on the city's southwest side, which hosted the evening event. The DC Metro Coalition to Free the Cuban Five co-chaired the event, which included refreshments, speakers and a performance by jazz vocalist Denyse Pearson.

"This is eye-opening for me," said Xirui Zhang, 23, a pharmacy student who came with three friends and is new to the fight to free the Five. "I learned much more than in a classroom."

"The rose growing out of iron is an example of the Cuban Five fighting for their freedom," added his friend

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## Fighting Fund goes over top, 'Militant' supporters use effort to engage readers

BY LEA SHERMAN

To all who contributed to make the Militant Fighting Fund a success — Thank you!

Readers of the working-class newsweekly contributed more than \$119,000, well over the international goal of \$115,000, to help cover the operating expenses of the paper and field reporting teams around the world.

This victory is a good send-off to the reporting team of worker correspondents John Studer and Frank Forrester who are returning to Ukraine to cover the struggles of working people there. They will also visit the area hit by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion, which prompted the revolutionary government of Cuba to respond with a medical aid program that was both unparalleled in the world and continues today.

"Coverage of Ukraine is outstanding! Nothing comparable anywhere else!" a reader in Tucson, Arizona, wrote in a note he sent in with a \$50

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### Active Workers Conference

June 19-21  
Oberlin, Ohio

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# US decades-long dominance of Pacific challenged by China

Beijing’s territorial claims affront to Vietnam sovereignty

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Tensions are heating up in Asia. China’s growing economic influence and military capabilities are challenging Washington’s dominance in the Pacific, wrested as a spoil of the U.S. rulers’ blood-soaked victory in World War II. At the same time, Beijing’s growing territorial claims and encroachments in the South China Sea are fueling resentment in Vietnam and other countries in the region.

“China is feeling increasingly comfortable with the idea that it is Asia’s top power,” reported the *Wall Street Journal* June 1, “or at least should be treated as an equal of the U.S., and it is engaging in displays to show that the U.S. can do little or nothing to stop it despite America’s greater military firepower.”

Over the past couple of decades there’s been an explosive growth in China’s export of manufactured products and of capital invested in factories abroad. According to Thomson Reuters, China’s merchandise trade, which was less than one-third that of the U.S. in 2001, took over the top spot last year. Half of Australia’s trade is with China and more than 25 percent of Vietnam’s imports come from China, which is also New Zealand’s biggest trading partner. In Africa trade with China soared to \$200 billion last year, including \$44 billion in direct investment. This compares to \$85 billion that U.S. companies traded with African countries. Over the past nine years China’s capital investments have soared from Africa to the Middle

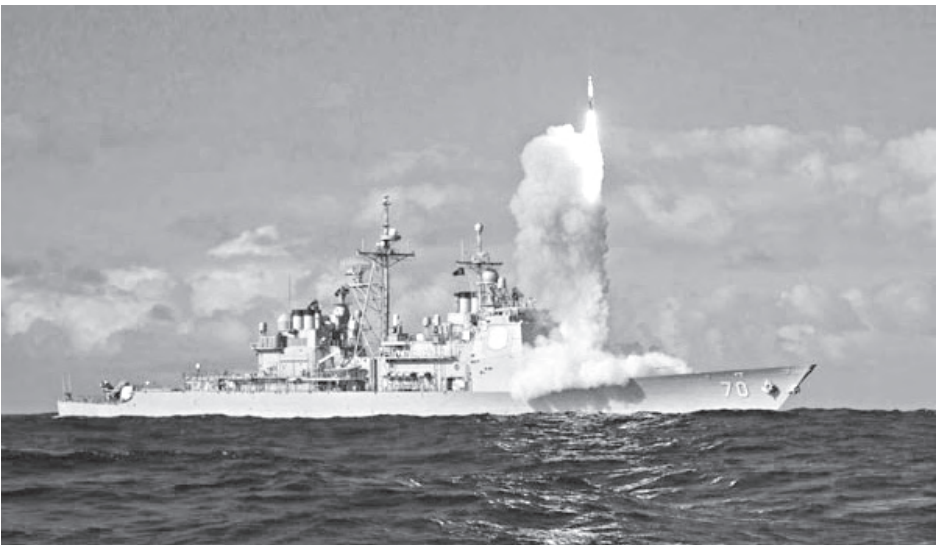
East to the U.S. to Southeast Asia.

At the same time, the massive, uneven and contradictory character of China’s rapid capitalist development has left it particularly vulnerable to the worldwide slowdown in capitalist production and trade.

China’s economic growth has enabled Beijing to finance a rapid modernization of its military, including the development of stealth warplanes, combat drones, initial steps toward a blue-water naval force and the world’s only ballistic anti-ship missiles, dubbed “carrier killers,” which have effectively begun to push U.S. forces a little further from China’s coastline.

The Barack Obama administration has responded with an “Asia pivot,” aimed at countering China’s growing influence and at maintaining pressure on North Korea. It shifts more U.S. military forces to the Pacific combined with efforts to strengthen trade and military ties with governments in the region. The former has not slowed Beijing’s military assertiveness and the latter has had limited success in driving a wedge between China and other nations whose economic ties with Beijing have grown.

The May 30-June 1 Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore was marked by sharp exchanges between top U.S. and Chinese officials. Defense Secretary Charles Hagel accused China of “intimidation and coercion” over its claims in the South China Sea — where Washington had, but no longer has, free rein — while Chinese Lt. Gen. Wang



Navy test Aegis cruiser with anti-ballistic missile system in Pacific, September 2013. Washington is discussing putting ABM batteries in South Korea, targeting North Korea and China.

Guanzhong called Hagel’s speech “a provocative challenge against China.”

Chinese President Xi Jinping in a speech in Shanghai May 19 called for a new regional security alliance that includes China, Russia and Asian countries but not the U.S., according to Xinhua news agency.

President Obama’s late April trip to Japan, South Korea, Philippines and Malaysia failed to achieve its main objective: securing the Trans-Pacific Partnership — a trade pact for 12 nations that comprise 40 percent of the world’s economic output that excludes China.

While in Manila, Obama signed a 10-year military pact giving U.S. warships, planes and troops greater access to bases throughout the Philippines.

Similar pacts are in place with Singapore, from where U.S. military flights have expanded, and with Australia, where U.S. Marines are stationed in the northern part of the country. Pentagon officials are also seeking a “presence” in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam, reported the *Financial Times*.

Washington is also considering enhancing its anti-ballistic missile system aimed at North Korea by establishing ABM batteries in South Korea.

## Vietnam-China dispute

On May 2 China placed a deep-water oil-drilling rig 130 miles from Vietnam’s coast, “80 miles deep into the Vietnamese Continental Shelf,” according to a statement by Vietnam’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chinese escort and military ships rammed Vietnamese vessels in the area and shot high-pressure water

cannons at them, injuring some sailors.

On May 26 a Chinese vessel rammed and sank a Vietnamese fishing boat about 20 miles from Beijing’s oil rig, reported Vietnam’s television network.

The Vietnamese government responded with anti-Chinese nationalist appeals, promoting rallies of several hundred May 10 in front of China’s embassy in Hanoi and its consulate in Ho Chi Minh City chanting, “Down with China.” Thousands of Vietnamese workers then took to the streets in industrial zones in south and central Vietnam in anti-Chinese riots, vandalizing Chinese and other foreign-owned factories and attacking Chinese people. Four Chinese workers were killed and more than 100 injured.

Alongside the reactionary anti-Chinese riots, workers protested low wages and poor work conditions that have accompanied the foreign capitalist investment. Some 10,000 workers demonstrated at the Taiwanese-owned Chutex Garment Factory north of Ho Chi Minh City May 13, reported the *New York Times*.

Fearing the action would deter foreign investment and touch off a fight for higher wages and other working-class demands, government officials sought to rein in the outburst. But more than 600 Chinese citizens fled to Cambodia and another 3,000 were evacuated from Vietnam, China’s state media reported May 18.

The people of Vietnam have a long history of struggles that defeated imperialist invasions and occupation: by To-

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# THE MILITANT

## Support Socialist Workers candidates

*From picket lines to protests against detentions and deportations of immigrant workers, Socialist Workers Party candidates point to the need for independent working-class political action to counter Democrats, Republicans and other supporters of capitalist rule.*



Militant/Jeanne FitzMaurice

Mary Martin, left, SWP candidate for Congress in Washington, campaigns at North-west Detention Center in Tacoma May 10.

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# Gathering in Ohio will discuss, strengthen working-class politics

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The opening session of the June 19-21 Active Workers Conference is two weeks away. Sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party, the gathering brings together regular readers of the *Militant*, participants in labor and political struggles, those active in defense of the Cuban Five and members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party.

The conference will be a unique opportunity to discuss working-class resistance, world politics and how the working class and its allies can chart a course toward the revolutionary conquest of power and open the worldwide struggle to bring an end to capitalist exploitation and oppression in all its forms.

Participants will come from the U.S. and Canada, from several countries in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Since the end of last year working people and others in Ukraine have stepped onto the world political stage, toppling the pro-Moscow regime of Viktor Yanukovich and fighting to defend the country's sovereignty against provocations by separatist gangs. Working people in Ukraine are taking advantage of greater political space they have won to fight in their own interests. There is more space today for working people in Russia, as demonstrated by defiant protests by members of Pussy Riot.

The conference will also help participants continue to win support among workers for the fight to free the Cuban Five and learn about the moral and po-

litical example of the Cuban Revolution in the process.

"My opinion matters and I want to meet some of the fighters I have read about in the *Militant*," Sydney Coe, a forklift driver in a steel fabrication plant

## ACTIVE WORKERS CONFERENCE, JUNE 19-21

in Kent, Washington, told the *Militant* June 3. "I also want to meet the people who write the stories and who are behind the books I've been reading.

"I am looking forward to the classes to learn about what Cuba has done in helping the children of Chernobyl, and the changes being made by the working class in Canada," he said. "Capitalism is our problem worldwide and I want to see how we can join together to change the system that is oppressing us."

Coe, a member of Teamsters Local 117, started reading the *Militant* more than two years ago during a strike he was part of at Davis Wire.

"I can't do what I do without the *Militant*. We wouldn't be where we are without it," he said. "And I need it because it keeps me in contact with fighting comrades around the world."

The proletarian course of the Cuban Revolution will be at the center of two classes: "There Are No 'Laws' for the Transition from Capitalism to Socialism — Nor from a Degenerated Workers State to Capitalism" and "Chernobyl, Angola, Rectification and the Course

## UK court pulls back from using 'terrorism' law to seize home



MANCHESTER, England — About 40 people protested outside the Manchester Crown court May 23 against government moves against the Farooqi family home based on provisions in the Terrorism Act passed in 2000. The court ruled that day that the home could not be seized. Munir Farooqi was convicted in 2011 on trumped-up charges of "terrorism" based on testimony from two undercover cops and sentenced to four lifetimes.

"I have seen for three years what the family has gone through," said Ayesha Malik, a schoolmate of Munir Farooqi's daughter Zulaika. "If they can use this law against the Farooqi family they could use it to target anyone they want to."

— DAG TIRSÉN

Led by Fidel and Che: The Weight of Subjective and Moral Factors in the Proletarian-Led Transition to Socialism."

These classes point to the sharp contrast between the counterrevolutionary Stalinist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the course of the 1959 Cuban Revolution and its proletarian leadership, as well as what the course of the Cuban Revolution shows about the place of consciousness and the actions of toilers in the fight for socialism.

A class on "The Westward Expansion of Communism in Canada Comes Closer" will discuss the significant developments in the working class in Canada as decades of struggle has pushed back the national oppression of the Quebecois and what this opens up for the working-class struggle for power across Canada.

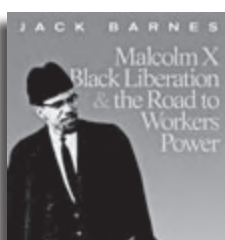
The class on "The Fight for Women's Emancipation, 1986 and 2014: What's Changed?" will examine how the working-class struggle is advanced through the fight for women's rights.

"Defending the Party and Its Program: *Socialism on Trial* and *50 Years of Covert Operations in the U.S.*" and "Communism and Revolutionary Centralism: *In Defense of Marxism* and *Struggle for a Proletarian Party*" completes the class program of the conference.

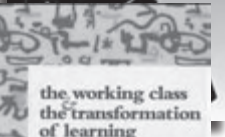
Throughout the gathering — in the reports, during the closing conference panel and illustrated in prominent displays — attention will be brought to the

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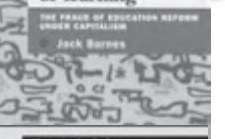
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**Workers Mobilize to Defend Ukraine's Sovereignty.** Speaker: John Benson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

**IOWA**  
**Des Moines**  
**From Turkey to South Dakota: No Worker Has to Die! Fight for Workers' Control!** Speaker: Ellen Brickley, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.

**CANADA**  
**Montreal**  
**Malcolm X in His Own Words.** Video showing followed by discussion. Fri., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
**Manchester**  
**Outrage Against Abduction of Girls in Nigeria Shows Sea Change Affecting Women in the World.** Speaker: Dag Tirsén, Communist League. Fri., June 13, 6:30 p.m. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

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# Workers back united Ukraine

**Continued from front page**  
with Igor Strelkov, a former Russian military intelligence operative, who styles himself as the separatists’ military commander in the region around Slovyansk.

Before the recent shifts, “the authority of the alleged nation barely extend[ed] beyond their ten-story office tower and a few heavily armed checkpoints on roads leading into” Donetsk, the Associated Press reported May 21.

Since they moved in, the Vostok Battalion have sent squads into the city, setting up barricades and posts in heavily populated residential areas to deter assaults by Ukrainian military forces.

They have carried out selected operations against Ukrainian military positions, launching an attack June 2 against a border patrol station outside Luhansk, seeking to open the border to a heavier flow of armed recruits and heavy weapons. The same day a paramilitary detachment broke into the editorial offices of two Donetsk newspapers, *Donbas* and *Vecherniy Donetsk*, dragging away the editors.

More than 10,000 people have fled the region, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported May 30. Some 45 percent have gone to central Ukraine, another 26 percent to western Ukraine, and some to the south, Crimea or Russia.

**For ‘united, independent Ukraine’**

“The Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine is deeply concerned over the situation in the eastern part of Ukraine,” Mikhailo Volynets, chairman of the union federation, said in a May 19 statement, listing “the capture of administration buildings, terrorist activities followed by dozens of deaths of peaceful citizens, proclamation of their own rule, intimidation of local inhabitants, kidnappings, torture of pro-Ukrainian

journalists, politicians, international observers, and simply workers.”

“Donbas is the coal mining region,” said Volynets. Continued disruptions or annexation by Moscow will lead to “closure of the mines, labor migration, devastation of coal mining towns and impoverishment of the population.”

“Therefore the miners of Ukraine stand up for the united and independent Ukraine,” he said. The miners and the confederation call for “solidarity with workers of Southern and Eastern regions of Ukraine.”

While most workers in the east favor a united Ukraine, polarization is growing.

“Ukraine is one country, and should stay as one country,” Lyudmila, a retired high school teacher, told AP, adding that she was afraid to give her full name for fear of separatist retaliation.

Though she still strongly backs national sovereignty, she also says she has no sympathy or confidence in the new government in Kiev.

Many workers agree. And some, influenced by the never-ending media barrage from Moscow — the only news broadcasts permitted by separatist commandos who seized control of towers in Donetsk and Luhansk — are drawn to support the separatists, looking for a way out of the chaos, uncertainty and hardship.

The new Ukrainian president elected May 25, Petro Poroshenko, is a multi-millionaire chocolate tycoon who capitalized on the looting of state property following the downfall of the Soviet Union and independence of Ukraine in 1991. The Poroshenko government plans to slash government expenditures to comply with conditions for International Monetary Fund loans and increase profitability on the backs of working people.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble told the press last month that

**Actions in Puerto Rico demand: ‘Free Oscar López!’**



The fight to free Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera, 71, is gaining support. López has been jailed in the United States since 1981 on trumped-up charges of “seditious conspiracy” because of his activities in support of independence for Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony.

Starting April 27, supporters of López marched through 33 small towns in Puerto Rico — representing each year he has been in jail — ending with a demonstration in front of the U.S. Courthouse in San Juan May 29, the anniversary of his arrest. Hundreds greeted a “To the sea for Oscar López” flotilla of kayaks, paddle boards and small boats at San Juan Harbor (above), May 25. The action was organized in response to a letter to his granddaughter Karina Valentín, where he wrote that “after my family, what I miss the most is the sea.”

“Now that you’ve spent 33 years in prison, was it worth it?” López was asked in a phone interview printed May 29 in the San Juan daily *El Nuevo Día*.

“While there is still a single person in an occupied nation willing to fight, there is still hope that Puerto Rico will be free,” he said. “Loving our homeland costs nothing; losing it would come at a great cost.”

This year both the June 1 Bronx and June 8 New York Puerto Rican Day parades are making special tributes to the campaign to free López.

— SETH GALINSKY

Greece — where official unemployment has topped 26 percent for the last year — would be a good model for what is coming in Ukraine.

The IMF itself expects the loan conditions it demands from the Ukrainian government will throw the country into deep recession, contracting by 5 percent over the rest of the year. Central to the

plan is elimination of government social subsidies, especially for heating, and “suspension of unaffordable wage and pension increases.”

On May 29, the State Property Fund announced it will auction off 38 state-owned coal mines as part of the deal. These mines had received a nearly \$1.8 billion state subsidy to stay open and working. This is more than 30 percent of the 120 functioning coal mines in the country. The most profitable mines were grabbed and privatized years earlier.

Miners and other workers have been resisting. Iron-ore miners in Krivyi Rih have organized marches and rallies fighting for doubling their wages, drawing support from area steelworkers and others.

“On May 23 we organized a solidarity rally for the Krivyi Rih miners,” Aleksei Oleksyevych, leader of the independent miners’ union in Dnepropetrovsk, told the *Militant*. “We organized a picket outside the EVRAZ offices here, saying ‘high salaries, the foundation of the unity of Ukraine.’”

Members of the miners union from four state-owned peat production companies — Cherkasytorf, Rozhnytorf, Rivnetorf and Volinjtorf — rallied outside the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry in Kiev May 30, protesting lack of work.

““The boss appointed new managers,” Ludmyla Akymenko, a union activist at Cherkasytorf, told the crowd,” reported the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine website. “We started getting minimum wages. There were no payments into our pension fund. They told us we would be working one hour a day.”

“An important industry like the peat industry must be developed, not destroyed,” said Volynets, addressing the rally. “The workers for the peat companies must have decent work conditions.”

## ‘Militant’ fund over the top

**Continued from front page**  
contribution.

“Reaching out with the paper a Ukrainian worker led us to a Ukrainian church, helped us get a subscription for the church and kicked in a contribution,” said Dean Hazlewood, fund organizer in Miami.

*Militant* supporters there are using the advances made in the subscription and fund campaigns to reach out to readers, inviting them to the Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, June 19-21.

“Six International Longshoremen’s Association members contributed to the fund,” Hazlewood said. “Several are long-time subscribers, who we met at plant-gate sales on the docks in Miami and Fort Lauderdale. We are meeting with two of them to see if they would like to participate in the conference.”

“The last couple of weeks, it wasn’t a given we were going to make the goal,” said Alyson Kennedy, Chicago’s fund organizer. “We reached out to subscribers and got a good response. Some people raised their pledge, some even doubled it. A lot of people really liked the first-hand coverage from Ukraine. They see the value of their contributions, the value of the reporting trip,” she said.

Not everyone was happy with the *Militant*’s views on developments in

Ukraine, said Kennedy. “One subscriber called in an agitated state, disagreeing with the defense of the country’s sovereignty.”

Several of Kennedy’s co-workers contributed to the fund. So did a long-time subscriber, who was part of a 14-month lockout in 2010-2011 at Honeywell’s uranium processing plant in Metropolis, Illinois, that was covered and supported by the *Militant*.

“In the final stretch we stepped up our efforts to make the goal and in the last week we raised more than \$3,000,” said Deborah Liatos, organizer of the effort in New York. “We organized to get in touch with long-term subscribers, getting to know them better. By the end we had over 100 contributors.”

A few areas didn’t make their quota.

“We took too large a goal, depended too much on one or two people who in the past had given large contributions,” said Tom Fiske in Twin Cities.

“We approached the fund drive routinely, and didn’t reach out to a broad enough layer of long-term readers in a timely and effective way,” said Mary Martin in Seattle.

Again, a big thanks to all contributors. You make it possible to get the *Militant*, the voice of the working class, to readers like you worldwide.

<i>Militant Fighting Fund</i>			
April 5 - May 27 final chart			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Philadelphia	\$3,800	\$4,116	108%
Des Moines	\$2,800	\$2,957	106%
Chicago	\$9,500	\$9,895	104%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$8,232	103%
Miami	\$2,800	\$2,877	103%
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$8,727	101%
Washington	\$7,800	\$7,910	101%
San Francisco	\$13,500	\$13,561	100%
New York	\$19,000	\$19,060	100%
Omaha/Lincoln	\$2,700	\$2,706	100%
Boston	\$3,500	\$3,500	100%
Houston	\$3,500	\$3,320	95%
Twin Cities	\$6,500	\$5,920	91%
Seattle	\$8,400	\$7,490	89%
Other		\$1,250	
Total U.S.	\$100,400	\$101,521	101%
CANADA	\$7,000	\$7,700	110%
NEW ZEALAND	\$5,000	\$5,240	105%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500	\$1,500	100%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,000	\$2,525	126%
Manchester	\$750	\$940	125%
Total UK	\$2,750	\$3,465	126%
France	\$400	\$435	109%
Total	\$117,050	\$119,861	104%
Should be	\$115,000	\$115,000	100%



# Marchers protest killings by police in Salinas, Calif.

BY ERIC SIMPSON

SALINAS, Calif. — Carrying signs demanding “Respect, Dignity, Justice,” 2,000 farmworkers, unionists, high school students and others marched here May 25 to protest recent killings by police. The march wound through working-class neighborhoods, pausing at the spots where two of the killings took place.

On May 20, two Salinas police officers killed Carlos Mejía, 44. In a cell-phone video, the cops are seen guns drawn, chasing Mejía down the street and then shooting him. Police say Mejía, who was carrying gardening shears, had threatened a woman and attacked her dog. His family’s lawyer said that Mejía was looking for work and had defended himself against a vicious dog. KSBW TV news reported he was intoxicated.

An evening protest May 21 at the intersection where Mejía was killed grew to 1,000. Police responded to an unrelated nearby incident and some members of the crowd threw bottles, bricks and rocks. Police from several towns were called in to back up Salinas cops in riot gear.

The May 25 march was organized by leaders of the United Farm Workers union, the League of United Latin American Citizens and other community groups. They recruited volunteer monitors to help ensure a disciplined and peaceful action.

On May 9, police shot and killed farmworker Osman Hernández, 26, who had been spinning in circles waving a knife used for harvesting lettuce over his head in front of a busy grocery store. Police used a Taser against Hernández and then shot him while he was lying on the ground.

“The police state that they killed Mr. Hernández for having a knife, not for actually threatening them with harm,” Christopher Dolan, a lawyer for Hernández’s family told the *Californian*. “Mr. Hernández didn’t even have a weapon in his hand when he was gunned down.”

Three cops simultaneously shot and killed Angel Ruiz, 42, on March 20 in front of a fast food restaurant. Police said that Ruiz was reaching for a gun, which turned out to be a pellet gun.

On the eve of the May 25 march, the Salinas Police Department posted answers to “Frequently Asked Questions”

on their website, in response to outrage over the shootings.

In answer to why the police didn’t shoot Mejía “in the arm or leg,” the police department replied, “That’s not what police are trained to do.” In answer to “why did they shoot him more than once,” they replied that “it’s common for police to shoot multiple times to stop a threat.”

“We don’t like the way the police are acting. They didn’t need to kill those people,” monitor Martín Alvarez, a United Farm Workers union staff member, told the *Militant* at the march.

Jesús Castro, a truck driver and Teamsters union member, was also a monitor at the march. “I work a 12-hour shift in another town,” he said, “but what happened with the police made me stop my



Militant/Eric Simpson

Families of people recently killed by police carry lead banner in protest of some 2,000 farmworkers, unionists, high school students and others in Salinas, California, May 25.

life and put everything on hold.”

“We don’t feel safe around the police,” said farmworker José García, 42.

“People are tired from years of kill-

ings by police,” said David Serena, one of the organizers of the march. “We can’t let the police continue to treat our people like this.”

## New documents highlight extensive gov’t spying

BY JOHN STUDER

A May 22 *New York Times* article titled “Officials Cast Wide Net in Monitoring Occupy Protests,” highlighted some 4,000 pages of recently released documents of spying on political activity and union struggles. Federal spy agencies, state police departments, city cop “counterterrorism” Red Squads in major cities and private intelligence outfits — working in concert in 78 so-called fusion centers around the country — used the occasion of Occupy Wall Street actions in 2011-2012 to step up spying on street protests, labor resistance and political organizations.

The files were originally released under the Freedom of Information Act to the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund, which recently turned them over to the press. The new documents supplement hundreds of pages of FBI files released in 2012.

The 78 regional fusion centers, set up following the 2001 al-Qaeda attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, share spy data to 780,000 cops in 18,000

state, local and tribal agencies.

The amorphous Occupy protests became a major target of spying, infiltration, disruption and provocation. And the fusion centers allowed for concentration of significant resources on gathering and disseminating information about a wide swath of political activity. The Major Cities Intelligence Commanders Group, which was set up to coordinate intelligence work among cop departments nationwide, organized the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center. The center produced systematic, sometimes twice-a-week, national reports on political activity of all kinds that was sent to some 99 cop agencies and fusion centers around the country.

One area of particular interest was a labor battle by members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 at the Port of Longview in Washington state. Occupy demonstrations at several California ports in 2012 expressed solidarity with the port workers’ eight-month battle against a union-busting lockout by EGT Development.

The Pentagon’s Defense Threat Reduction Agency circulated to the fusion center network a report from activistmap.com, a private intelligence service that calls itself the Domestic Terrorism Tracking System. Keywords the system uses to categorize entries include “protestors, activist(s), socialist(s) and communist(s).”

While its spies noted that “some of this information describes First Amendment protected activities,” they urged other agencies to take advantage of social media, especially Facebook and Twitter, to help select targets.

They spied on protests by Verizon workers fighting for a contract, a Carpenters’ union picket line and rallies of the Massachusetts Teachers Union. They targeted political activists like Noam Chomsky and David Rothaus, who wrote and acted in a 2004 documentary “The Diary of Sacco and Vanzetti.”

The New York City cops sent “email blasts” to area bosses, banks and landlords on plans for protests they picked up from the fusion center network.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 16, 1989

The slaughter by government troops of many hundreds of students and other people in Beijing has aroused the justified outrage of working people all over the world. This mass execution for the crime of demanding elementary democratic rights was a blow to the struggles of working people everywhere.

The government of Deng Xiaoping and Premier Li Peng has attempted to pass off the peaceful protest in Tiananmen Square as a “counterrevolutionary rebellion” by “thugs” and “dregs of society.”

There was no counterrevolutionary uprising. The students had gathered in the square to assert their rights as citizens to assemble and petition the government for the redress of their grievances. At the top of their list of demands was freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and other elementary democratic rights.



June 15, 1964

For many years pacifists pointed to the struggle in South Africa as a proof of the validity of their theories. Gandhi had first advocated passive resistance in South Africa. The African National Congress organized its struggle against apartheid in accordance with the philosophy of non-violence.

But the racists running the government were not defeated or converted by the philosophy and practice of non-violence. They beat and shot unarmed demonstrators, arrested and tortured leaders, passed severe and inhuman laws against the black population, and outlawed the African National Congress.

These facts expose the bankruptcy of pacifism as a method of struggle against oppression. As Nelson Mandela’s courtroom statements dramatically show, these facts have also convinced the leaders of the liberation movement to abandon pacifism and initiate armed struggle against the racist regime.

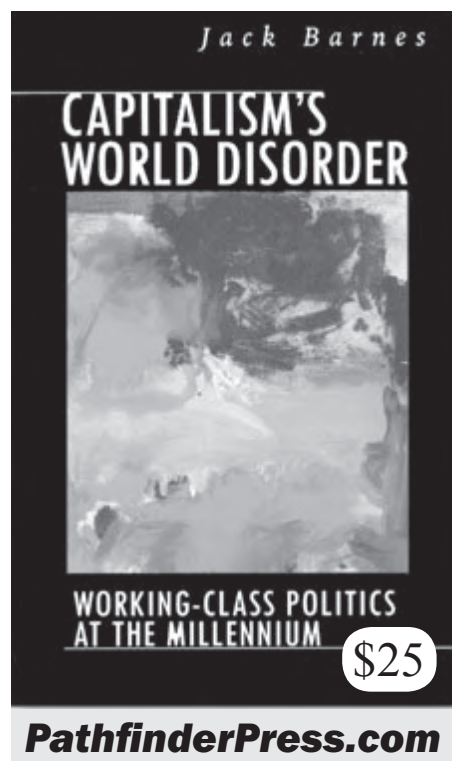


June 16, 1939

The great victory won by Briggs Local 212 of the United Automobile Workers, reported in detail in the last issue of the *Socialist Appeal*, may very well prove to be a turning point in the fortunes, not only of the automobile workers, but of the labor movement in general.

In auto, it is an advance which puts the entire international union in a position to go over to an offensive fight against the auto barons all along the line.

In the general labor movement, it signifies — following on the heels of the victory of the United Mine Workers — a healthy contrast to the critical situation in which the C.I.O. found itself a few months ago. The two victories together mean that the C.I.O. has again gained the upper hand in the labor movement, and since the C.I.O. unquestionably represents the most progressive movement, that is all to the good.





# Cuban Five event in DC

**Continued from front page**  
Jason Lee, 25, commenting on the painting titled “The Air Vent.”

“I’m moved by each of these pieces, how he gives the mundane meaning,” said Gloria Kirk, a photographer and mixed media artist. “These watercolors need to be more widely disseminated.”

“During the trial, it was impossible to prove the charges against the Five, no evidence was produced, not a single secret document was found,” Juan Lamigueiro León, deputy chief of the Cuban Interests Section, told participants. “Yet Gerardo Hernández was given a double life sentence.” Along with other speakers, he urged participation in the upcoming June 4-11 “5 Days for the Cuban 5” in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5.

Jose Pertierra, an attorney representing the Venezuelan government in its effort to bring Luis Posada Carriles to trial in that country, also spoke. Posada is wanted for masterminding the 1976 bombing of a Cu-

bana airline flight that killed all 73 people on board — the type of murderous attack the Cuban Five were in the U.S. to prevent.

“Our task is to bring this case to the people of the U.S.,” Pertierra said about the Cuban Five.

“We should always remember that Gerardo Hernández, Fernando González, and René González, were young fighters for the liberation of Angola and the defeat of the South African racist armed forces,” said Oscar Ordenes of the DC Metro Coalition to Free the Cuban Five.

Between 1975 and 1991, some 425,000 Cuban volunteers took part in Cuba’s internationalist combat mission in Angola to defend the newly independent nation from invasions from apartheid South Africa. Cuba’s aid was decisive in defeating the South African army and weakening the racist regime, which fell shortly thereafter. In 1991 Nelson Mandela called Cuba’s mission “a contribution to African independence, freedom and justice, unparalleled for its principled and selfless character.”

“This case is political not judicial,” said Omari Musa, a member of the Socialist Workers Party who also spoke for the DC coalition. “It’s meant to punish the Cuban people for making a revolution. Working people identify with and know the experience of our Five comrades in prison and solidarize with them. Let’s have more exhibits and build a jury of millions.”

Banbose Shango, a co-chair of the National Network on Cuba, also spoke.

“The picture of the chains reminded me of the slave trade,” said Paul Sankara, originally from Burkina Faso in West Africa. “Giving you a number dehumanizes your human value,” he said, referring to “The Number,” another painting by Guerrero. “From the sad to the sarcastic, the watercolors are well done. The little holes in the grill with the rose show the perseverance, that it’s not completely lost. That’s necessary for fighters.”

## Omaha Malcolm X center hosts Cuban 5 paintings



Mari Loliz Perez

OMAHA, Neb. — Antonio Guerrero’s “I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived” exhibit opened at Malcolm X Memorial Foundation here May 17 as part of the annual celebration of Malcolm X’s birthday. The center is located in the North Omaha neighborhood where Malcolm was born.

“People saw his art and for the first time became aware of the Cuban Five’s cause and fight for justice. They were introduced to what these men face,” said Mari Loliz Perez, 28, an elementary school teacher’s aide, who said she volunteered to help staff the exhibit “because I know they are innocent and should be free.”

Some 250 people came to the Malcolm X celebration, which included music and performances by children’s groups. About 50 viewed Guerrero’s prison paintings.

“I find Antonio’s paintings very simple and interesting because they show the reality of prison to anyone who sees them,” said Perez, who first learned about the fight to free the Cuban Five when supporters of the *Militant* knocked on her door. “I met people at the exhibit who knew prison from their own experience and who really liked the paintings. They made an impression on them that will be strong and lasting. It is like sowing a seed that will grow.”

Three prison paintings by Mondo we Langa were on display alongside Guerrero’s. Known as the “Omaha Two,” we Langa and Ed Poindexter are former leaders of the Omaha Black Panther chapter. Among the many targets of the FBI’s Cointelpro spying and disruption campaign, they were given life in prison on trumped-up charges of killing a police officer in 1970.

— RUTH ROBINETT

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



### Omaha, Nebraska 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.

### Philadelphia May 30-June 30

Opening reception: Fri., May 30, 5:30PM; program, 7PM. Exhibit hours: Wed., Thurs. 11AM-1PM. Sun., June 1, 1-5PM. Christ & St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, 3454 N. 6th St. Tel: (215) 226-1444 or (215) 848-2922.

### Auckland, New Zealand

### May 17-mid-June

Exhibit hours: Tues.-Sat. 10AM-4PM. Tivoli, 2/118 Ocean View Road, Pen-dragon Mall, Oneroa, Waiheke Island. Tel.: (09) 372 3361.

### London

### June 15-July 13

Bernie Grant Arts Centre. Town Hall Approach Road, Tottenham.

## Who are the Cuban Five?



Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the 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.

Participants bought seven copies of *I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived*; two copies of *Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five*; four copies of *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa’s Freedom and Our Own*; three copies of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*. Another top seller was *Wom-*

*en in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*, with three copies.

## Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five

The Cuban Five have won the respect of thousands around the world as well of 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**



# ‘Working class must organize its own political party’

‘Socialism on Trial’ presents revolutionary program in fight for workers power – in wartime or ‘peace’

Below is an excerpt from the new edition of *Socialism on Trial*, just released by Pathfinder Press. The book presents the full court testimony by James P. Cannon in November 1941. Cannon, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and 17 other communist and Teamster leaders were framed up and convicted in Minneapolis that year on federal “conspiracy” charges under the thought-control Smith Act. The act made it illegal “to teach, advocate and encourage” revolutionary ideas. The questions were posed by defense attorney Albert Goldman, who was a defendant himself.

“They were incarcerated because they opposed imperialist war,” wrote Joseph Hansen in the book’s introduction, “and because they advocated building a socialist society as the only means of ending such wars and all the other evils of capitalism.” Copyright © 2014 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Q: Will you state the reasons why the party would not support a war conducted by the present government of the United States?

A: In general, we do not put any confidence in the ruling capitalist group in this country. We do not give them any support because we do not think they can or will solve the fundamental social

problems which must be solved in order to save civilization from shipwreck.

We believe that the necessary social transition from the present system of capitalism to the far more efficient order of socialism can only be brought about under a leadership of the workers. The workers must organize themselves independently of the capitalist political parties. They must organize a great party of their own, develop an independent working-class party of their own, and oppose the policy of the capitalist parties, regardless of whether they are called the Democratic or Republican, or anything else.

Q: What kind of a war would you consider a war waged by the present government of the United States?

A: I would consider it a capitalist war. Q: Why?

A: Because America is today a capitalist nation. It is different from the others only in that it is stronger than the others and bigger. We do not believe in capitalist policy. We do not want to gain any colonies. We do not want bloodshed to make profits for American capital.

Q: What is the party’s position on the claim that the war against Hitler is a war of democracy against fascism?

A: We say that is a subterfuge, that the conflict between American imperialism and German imperialism is for the domination of the world. It is absolutely true that Hitler wants to dominate the world, but we think it is equally true that the ruling group of American capitalists has the same idea, and we are not in favor of either of them.

We do not think that the Sixty Families who own America want to wage this war for some sacred principle of democracy. We think they are the greatest enemies of democracy here at home. We think they would only use the opportunity of a war to eliminate all civil liberties at home, to get the best imitation of fascism they can possibly get.

Q: What is the position of the party with reference to any imperialist or capitalist enemy of the United States, like Germany or Italy?

A: We are not pro-German. We absolutely are not interested in the success of any of the imperialist enemies of the United States.

Q: In case of a conflict between the United States and Germany, Italy, or Japan, what would the party’s position be so far as the victory or defeat of the United States, as against its imperialist enemies?

A: Well, we are certainly not in favor of a victory for Japan or Germany or any other imperialist power over the United States.

Q: Is it true then that the party is as equally opposed to Hitler as it is to the capitalist claims of the United States?

A: That is uncontestable. We consider Hitler and Hitlerism the greatest enemy of man-



“It’s absolutely true that Hitler wants to dominate the world,” said James P. Cannon in trial testimony, “but it’s equally true that the ruling group of American capitalists has the same idea. We’re not in favor of either American or German imperialism dominating the world.” Top, Port-au-Prince, July 1915, U.S. Marines begin occupation of Haiti that lasted until 1934. Inset, Corinto, Nicaragua, March 1927. U.S. troops disembark, opening seven-year war to crush rebellion led by army of workers and peasants commanded by Augusto César Sandino.



kind. We want to wipe it off the face of the earth. The reason we do not support a declaration of war by American arms is because we do not believe the American capitalists can defeat Hitler and fascism. We think Hitlerism can be destroyed only by way of conducting a war under the leadership of the workers.

Q: What method does the party propose for the defeat of Hitler?

A: If the workers formed the government I spoke of, if the workers’ form of government were in power, we would propose two things:

One, that we issue a declaration to the German people, a solemn promise, that we are not going to impose another Versailles peace on them; that we are not going to cripple the German people, or take away their shipping facilities, or take away their milk cows, as was done in the horrible Treaty of Versailles, starving German babies at their mothers’ breasts, and filling the German people with such hatred and such demand for revenge that it made it possible for a monster like Hitler to rally them with

the slogan of revenge against this terrible Treaty of Versailles. We would say to them:

“We promise you that we will not impose any of those things upon the German people. On the contrary, we propose to you a reorganization of the world on a fair socialist basis, where the German people, with all their recognized ability and their genius and labor, can participate equally with us.” That would be our party’s first proposal to them.

Second, we would also say to them, “On the other hand, we are going to build the biggest army and navy and air force in the world, to put at your disposal, to help smash Hitler by force of arms on one front, while you revolt against him on the home front.”

I think that would be the program, in essence, of our party, which the workers and farmers government of America would advance so far as Hitler is concerned, and we believe that is the only way Hitlerism will be destroyed.



Top, defendants James P. Cannon, right, and Farrell Dobbs in Minneapolis, 1941. *Militant* in Dec. 6 issue that year reports on their convictions and of 16 other communist and Teamster leaders on “conspiracy” charges.

For further reading ...

## Socialism on Trial

Testimony at Minneapolis Sedition Trial by James P. Cannon

The revolutionary program of the working class, as presented during the 1941 trial — on the eve of U.S. entry into World War II — of leaders of the Minneapolis labor movement and the Socialist Workers Party on frame-up charges of “seditious conspiracy.” Includes Cannon’s answer to ultraleft critics of his testimony, drawing lessons from Marx and Engels to the October 1917 revolution in Russia and beyond. Also in Spanish. \$16.

## 50 Years of Covert Operations in the U.S.

Explains the origin of the “national security” state in the U.S., the expansion of presidential powers and the fight by socialist workers against government spying and harassment. \$12.

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# Castro in NY: Spurned by gov't, welcomed by Malcolm X

Below is an excerpt from *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June. It contains speeches by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara before the United Nations. The excerpt, from the book's appendix, describes the meeting between Castro and Malcolm X in Harlem on Sept. 19, 1960, at the Hotel Theresa, where they had moved after a Midtown hotel insulted the Cuban U.N. delegation by insisting on a \$10,000 cash deposit. Thousands of Harlem residents poured into the streets to welcome them. Copyright © 1992 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

One event that occurred during Castro's 1960 visit to the United States was a meeting between two of the outstanding twentieth-century revolutionary leaders of the Americas — Fidel Castro and Malcolm X.

The discussion took place at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem, shortly after the Cuban delegation's arrival on the evening of September 19. As Castro stated thirty years later: "I will always recall my meeting with Malcolm X at the Hotel Theresa, because he was the one who made it possible and gave his support so that we could stay there. We had two alternatives [of places to stay]. One was the United Nations gardens.

Carl Nesfield



Above, an enthusiastic crowd greets Cuban delegation outside Hotel Theresa in Harlem where they were staying, September 1960. Inset, Fidel Castro, left, meets with Malcolm X. "Premier Castro has come out against lynching which is more than President Eisenhower has done," said Malcolm X after meeting.

When I mentioned this to the secretary-general, he was horrified at the thought of a delegation in tents there. But then we received Malcolm X's offer — he had spoken with one of our compañeros. And I said, 'That is the place, the Hotel Theresa.' And there we went."

At the time Malcolm X was the leading spokesman of the Nation of Islam in New York. In March 1964, he broke with that organization. Less than a year later, in February 1965, he was assassinated.

Commenting on the meeting, Malcolm X told the press, "Premier Castro has come out against lynching, which is more than President Eisenhower has done. Castro has also taken a more open stand for civil rights for Black Cubans."

Malcolm X met with Castro as a prominent member of a "welcoming committee" that had been set up in Harlem several weeks earlier. The purpose of this group, which included a wide range of Black community leaders, was to greet heads of state, particularly from African countries, who would be in New York to address the UN General Assembly. Sixteen African countries were admitted to membership in the UN at that session.

Malcolm X came under attack in the media for his initiative in welcoming the

Cuban delegation and for taking responsibility for the organization of a defense guard at the Hotel Theresa to assure their safety. When prominent members of the Welcoming Committee refused to support Malcolm's stand, he publicly resigned from that body. "During the time Dr. Castro was in Harlem, thanks to the Nationalists and the Muslims, there was no rioting or lawlessness in Harlem," Malcolm X wrote. "The Muslims and the Black Nationalists in Harlem exerted every imaginable effort to see that Harlem remained 'calm and orderly.'"

"Despite this," he continued, "the daily press has unleashed a savage propaganda attack against us, purposely distorting facts, purposely telling bare-faced lies, labeling us as lawless terrorists, subversives, seditionists, etc." In resigning from the Welcoming Committee, Malcolm pledged to "henceforth confine my activities and efforts with and among the little men in the street, whose honesty and integrity makes them fearless when time comes to take an uncompromising stand, without hesitation, on the side of right and truth."

The article printed here is an account of the meeting between Castro and Malcolm X, written by Ralph D. Matthews, one of the journalists present. It was

published in the September 24, 1960, *New York Citizen-Call*.

UP IN FIDEL'S ROOM

During the course of their conversation, Cuba's Castro and Harlem's Malcolm covered much political and philosophical ground. ...

On racial discrimination: "We work for every oppressed person." But he raised a cautioning hand. "I did not want to interfere in the inner policy of a country."

And then in a slight voice of warning, still on the general theme of racial inequity, Dr. Castro said, "I will speak in the Hall (referring to the United Nations General Assembly)." ...

On American Negroes: "Castro is fighting against discrimination in Cuba, everywhere."

"You lack rights and you want your rights."

"Our people are changing. Now we're one of the most free people in the world."

"Negroes in the U.S. have more political conscience, more vision than anyone else." ...

Dr. Castro tapered the conversation off with an attempted quote of Lincoln. "You can fool some of the people some of the time, ..." but his English faltered and he threw up his hands as if to say, "You know what I mean."

Malcolm, rising to leave, explained his Muslim group for a Cuban reporter who had just come in, "We are followers of Muhammad. He says we can sit and beg for 400 more years. But if we want our rights now, we will have to ..." Here he paused and smiled enigmatically, "Well, ..."

Castro smiled. He smiled again as Malcolm told him a parable. "No one knows the master better than his servants. We have been servants ever since we were brought here. We know all his little tricks. Understand? We know what he is going to do before he does."

The Cuban leader listened to this being translated into Spanish, then threw his head back and laughed heartily. "Si," he said heartily. "Si."

We said our adios and then walked down the crowded hall, took the elevator to the street, where outside the crowds still milled around.

Some excited Harlemites then shouted into the night, "Viva Castro!"

June

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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# US challenged in the Pacific

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kyo from 1940 until the end of World War II; by Paris, which had colonized Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the mid-1880s, until its defeat at the battle of Dien Bien Phu in May 1954; and by Washington in the 1960s and early '70s.

At its height in 1969 U.S. imperialism had more than half a million troops occupying Vietnam and conducted massive aerial bombardments. The governments of China as well as the Soviet Union provided only token aid to the Vietnamese liberation forces. For the privileged ruling bureaucracies in Moscow and Beijing, the Vietnamese Revolution was no more than a bargaining chip as they sought to advance their own deals with U.S. imperialism.

Washington's war to roll back the Vietnamese Revolution was defeated in 1975. Four years later Chinese troops invaded Vietnam — shortly after Vietnam's troops toppled the murderous Beijing-allied Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. Some 10,000 Vietnamese soldiers and civilians were killed in repelling China's invasion.

## Active Workers Conference, June 19-21

Continued from page 3

efforts to build the worldwide campaign to free the Cuban Five, how to increase the working-class readership of the *Militant*, as well as the leverage of books distributed by Pathfinder Press in nearly a dozen languages.

Over the last year, members of the communist movement from North America, Britain, France, Aus-

China has also clashed with Vietnam over islands in the South China Sea claimed by both governments. In 1974 China occupied the Paracel Islands, defeating U.S.-backed South Vietnamese forces there. Fourteen years later 64 Vietnamese sailors were killed in fighting over the Spratly Islands. In 2007 Chinese naval vessels fired on a Vietnamese fishing boat, killing one sailor.

Since 2003, Hanoi has established limited military-related ties with its old enemy in Washington as leverage in its more immediate conflicts with Beijing. We "would welcome increased port visits with Vietnam," Seventh Fleet spokesman Commander William Marks told Reuters May 15.

Meanwhile, Tokyo seeks to strengthen its long-time military alliance with Washington, as it simultaneously takes steps to be more independent and self-reliant in use of its military power. On May 15 Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called for removing the constitutional ban to use Japan's military abroad, imposed as a consequence of its defeat in World War II.

tralia, New Zealand and Greece have taken part in reporting trips, book fairs and political events — bringing the *Militant* and Pathfinder books with them — in Burkina Faso, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Mali, Malaysia, Ukraine, Venezuela.

For information, contact *Militant* supporters in your area, listed on page 8, or write to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

## Authorities at federal prison block 'Militant'

Continued from front page

he had filed administrative appeals against prison authorities' refusal to deliver a previous issue of the *Militant* and other political publications. "I'm aware of your ongoing fight [against prison censorship] and wish to inform you that I'm now in it with you all," he wrote. "In solidarity we stand!!"

"This is the first time we've been notified that the *Militant* has been rejected by a federal prison," said Doug Nelson, editor of the paper. "We intend to fight this, as we have with other attempts to censor the paper in prisons. Meanwhile, our subscriber base among prisoners continues to grow. More than 20 have signed up over the last two months.

"There is a possibility that prison authorities in Florence have confused the *Militant* with *Revolution*, the paper of the Revolutionary Communist Party, which itself has had to fight against prison censorship," Nelson said. "All working people, whether inside or outside prison walls, have a stake in preventing thought police from denying us the right to read and discuss politics."

According to U.S. prison regulations, wardens can't "establish an excluded list of publications." To impose any specific issue, authorities must state their reasons why it is "detrimental to the security, discipline, or good order of the institution or ... might

facilitate criminal activity." And it can't be based on authorities' disagreement with a publication's political views. The regulations specify that a rejection notice "must contain reference to the specific article(s) or material(s) considered objectionable."

But the stated reason for the most recent effort to ban the *Militant* reads like the 1940 thought-control Smith Act used to frame up worker militants and others in the 1940s and '50s, including members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party.

The Dec. 30 issue features front-page coverage on efforts of working people in Ukraine to defend their national sovereignty, the war being waged against the toilers of Syria by the government of Bashar al-Assad, the fight of workers against a lockout by the Kellogg Company in Memphis, Tenn., commentary on the election of socialists in Seattle and a report on the paper's successful fall subscription drive. Among the articles inside is a report on decisions by the Coalition of Labor Union Women to back the campaign to free the Cuban Five from U.S. prisons. Antonio Guerrero, one of the Five, was imprisoned for years at the medium-security prison in Florence where he received a *Militant* subscription every week. Another article is headlined, "'Militant' Scores Another Win Against Censorship in Prisons."

## LETTERS

### 'Informative socialist paper'

I'm writing to express my deepest and most sincere gratitude to the *Militant*, not only for providing me with a subscription of such a valuable and informative socialist newspaper for almost two years already, but for also becoming a fundamental source of revolutionary consciousness and awareness of worldwide working-class struggles, whether living among society or currently incarcerated as in my case.

As a devoted advocate of socialism and universal peace as well as a supporter of the Cuban Revolution and any others opposing capitalist governments' tyranny, I extend my utmost respects to your organiza-

tion for the constant support and endless efforts being offered as means to obtain the liberation of the last three remaining members of the Cuban Five Patriots and every other international freedom fighter wrongfully imprisoned due to fabricated allegations or frivolous accusations by capitalist

governments.

Reading such interesting articles in the *Militant* definitely constitutes an immense sense of inspiration and pride to myself, which motivates me to continue fighting my own battles against cruel and inhumane punishments, discrimination, racism and harassment by prison authorities.

A prisoner  
Florida

### 'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the *Militant* and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

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

# Miners in Turkey

Continued from front page

so much pressure coming from the workers, the government had to say the mines are unsafe" and close them indefinitely.

"The miners don't want to die in the mine," said Alp who has been to Soma twice since the disaster, talking to miners who want to affiliate with the confederation.

The Eynez mine, which is not shut, is not very mechanized. Workers there used pneumatic drills and dynamite to extract the coal.

At a more modern mine nearby — run by Imbat — 1,600 out of 6,000 miners are refusing to work until safety is improved, Alp said.

The majority of workers at the Soma mines are contract workers, Alp said, who get paid half what permanent workers get and with fewer benefits.

Permanent workers at the Soma mines belong to the Maden-Is mine workers union, but many workers see it as a company union and forced its president to resign last week.

More workers are seeing that "they need a powerful union, a union that can stop production if conditions are unsafe," Alp said.

Soma Holding has held the lease on the three mines — which are owned by the government's Turkish Coal Enterprises — since 2005, when the ruling Justice and Development Party privatized production at mines around the country.

Lignite coal production nationwide increased tenfold between 2003 and 2012, according to *Hurriyet Daily News*. In 2012 the owner of Soma Holding boasted he reduced costs of extracting the coal from \$130 a ton in 2005 to \$23.80.

A 2010 report by the Chamber of Mining Engineers of Turkey warned about the dangers in the underground lignite mines and in mining throughout the country. "But the government never listened to us," chamber spokesperson Ragip Varol, told the *Militant*. "The accident in Soma was not an 'accident.'"

Varol noted that mine safety officials have the authority to close the mine if there are unsafe conditions. "But they are employed by the owner of the mines," he said. "If they report an unsafe condition the owner may fire them."

The Eynez mine had lots of "problems such as a terribly designed ventilation system, unsafe shaft design and operation, a lack of control mechanisms and improperly sealed shafts," he said.

The Chamber of Mining Engineers has been fighting to change a number of mining regulations, including one that prevents contract workers from joining labor unions.

There are already laws, although not strict enough, dealing with job safety, Varol said. "But they are not applied in real life, because they cost the companies a lot of money."

That's why miners need to join "independent workers unions," Varol said. "If they do not come together, nobody will give their rights to them."

In the aftermath of the disaster, protests took place across the country, fueled by the open contempt Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan showed for the miners, which included a public statement after the fire where he declared that "death is the destiny of coal miners." He also threatened and physically attacked protesting miners.

At a demonstration in the village of Kinik at the end of May to protest the lack of mine safety, miners told a reporter for al-Jazeera about their low pay, frequent injuries on the job and arbitrary firings at the Soma mines. Soma miner Ramazan Gursel argued that they should protest the working conditions, not the prime minister. But other miners disagreed chanting, "The murderer state will be held accountable for the Soma massacre."

Meanwhile, another miner died on the job in the southern province of Kahramanmaras June 1.

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

### Correction

The article "Canadian Gov't Frames Up Workers for Deadly Profit-Driven Rail Disaster" in the June 9 issue incorrectly said, "MMA employees called firefighters to extinguish a small fire in one of the locomotives." A local resident called the firefighters.