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VOL. 78/NO. 40 NOVEMBER 10, 2014

'Militant' subscription drive goes over the top!

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Congratulations to all those who joined the *Militant's* seven-week subscription drive around the world. Last week 482 people signed up to receive the socialist paper, taking the international total well past the 2,400 goal! Many new readers are engaged in labor battles and social struggles, which have been on the rise.

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New contributors donate to SWP Party-Building Fund
— See page 3

More than 2,500 subscribers!
Sept. 6 - Oct. 28 (final week)

Country	quota	sold	%
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Los Angeles	105	122	116%
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Philadelphia*	120	127	106%
Houston*	115	120	104%
Seattle*	130	135	104%
Boston	60	62	103%
Nebraska*	165	170	103%
Lincoln*	12	14	117%
Omaha*	153	156	102%
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Miami	105	106	101%
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Canada Total	110	117	106%
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Total	2440	2589	108%
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Don't waste your vote!
Vote Socialist Workers, not bosses' parties



Mary Martin, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Washington's 9th District, campaigns at demonstration in solidarity with hunger strikes at immigration jail in Tacoma, Wash.

BY JOHN STUDER

On Nov. 4 make your vote count. Pull the lever for the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party. Don't waste your vote on Democrats and Republicans – the two parties of the capitalist class.

Cast your vote for the working class against the growing assault by the bosses and their government; cast your vote for a course of struggle through which working people and our allies can build a movement to fight for political power, transform-

ing ourselves and all of society in the process; cast your vote for a future in which the needs of toiling humanity and preservation of the earth are priorities, not the profits of a few.

As Socialist Workers Party candi-

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NY event to free Cuban 5 features fighters against police brutality

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — A meeting to expand support for the fight to free the Cuban Five discussed Cuba's unparalleled contribution to the fight against Ebola and featured talks by fighters who are known, particularly in working-class communities here, for standing up to racist frame-ups and cop brutality. More than 200 people turned out for the event, held Oct. 25 at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan.

Elizabeth Stevens of the Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals introduced featured speaker Rodolfo Reyes, Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations, and praised Cuba's medical mission to help stop the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

The Cuban doctors and nurses who have volunteered are considered heroes in Cuba, said Reyes. Some coun-

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Cuba vs. US: two class responses to Ebola's spread

BY SETH GALINSKY AND STEVE CLARK

The contrast between the rapid and unstinting response of Cuba's revolutionary government and people to the devastating Ebola epidemic in West Africa, and the inaction of world capi-

NEWS ANALYSIS

talism's wealthiest regime in Washington, is so stark that in recent weeks even the editors of the *New York Times* were forced to note it.

"While the United States and several wealthy countries have been happy to pledge funds," said an Oct. 19 *Times* editorial, "only Cuba and a few nongovernmental organizations are offering what is most needed: medical professionals in the field." While "happy" is hardly the adjective for the U.S. rulers' paltry and belated response, the disparity is flagrant. "Cuba stands to play the most robust role among the nations seeking to

Continued on page 4

Mass protests erupt in Burkina Faso, demand dictatorial President Compaoré 'step aside!'



Reuters//Joe Penney

Beginning Oct. 28, hundreds of thousands of workers, peasants, youth and others have demonstrated across Burkina Faso, in West Africa, against attempts by the ruling party of President Blaise Compaoré to amend the constitution so he could run for a fifth term in the 2015 presidential elections. Above, protest in capital, Ouagadougou, Oct. 29. Compaoré came to power in a 1987 coup after organizing the assassination of then-President Thomas Sankara, central leader of the 1983-87 popular democratic revolution in that country. The protests have been called by opposition parties, trade unions and a broad range of organizations.

— MICHEL PRAIRIE

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- San Fransisco food workers fight for higher wages
- Laborers in Washington, DC, strike for union representation
- Walmart workers demand \$15 per hour and full-time work

Israel expands settlements in Palestinian West Bank

BY SETH GALINSKY

Since the end of Tel Aviv’s latest war on Gaza in August, the Israeli government has accelerated the expansion of settlements in the Palestinian territory of the West Bank, undermining the Palestinians’ struggle for a sovereign and contiguous state of their own.

Tel Aviv seized the West Bank in 1967 from Jordan and since 1977 has increasingly encouraged the construction of Jewish settlements there.

As part of the 1995 Oslo II Israeli-Palestinian “peace” agreement, the West Bank was gerrymandered into three areas of control: Area “A” under control of the Palestinian Authority, roughly 18 percent of the West Bank, comprising most of the Palestinian population; Area “B,” including mostly rural areas under

Palestinian civil control and Israeli police authority encompassing about 22 percent of the land; and Area “C,” the remaining 60 percent the territory, under Israeli control.

In 2003 Tel Aviv began building what it calls a “security fence” — opponents call it the “separation wall” — running roughly parallel to the West Bank’s 1967 border with Israel. The wall snakes around Palestinian villages, cutting them off from the rest of the region.

Today there are some 350,000 Israeli settlers scattered throughout the West Bank up to the border with Jordan.

“The building of settlements like Ariel east of Jerusalem make it very difficult to have unity of Palestinian land,” Roy Yellin, a spokesperson for B’tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, said in a phone interview Oct. 20. “It makes it difficult to travel from the northern part of the West Bank to the south.”

There are nearly 100 permanent or semipermanent Israeli checkpoints throughout the West Bank and hundreds of surprise ones set up during the course of a month. Palestinians are prohibited from using some roads that are reserved for the use of Jewish settlers. Thousands of farmers are only able to plant or harvest their fields when Israeli authorities open gates in the wall, sometimes for just a few hours a day.

The Jerusalem city government gave final approval Oct. 1 for the construction of 2,500 homes in Givat Hamatos, a Jewish enclave in majority-Palestinian East Jerusalem. Over the past decade



Butchers in Israel’s Negev win first union contract



Courtesy Koach La Ovdim

Butchers at the Chicken of the Negev kosher slaughterhouse near Ofakim, Israel, vote Sept. 22 in favor of their first union contract, which includes a 25 percent wage increase, an increase in pensions and job security. The 61 butchers, all of whom are Orthodox Jews, work for a subcontractor.

“None of the Orthodox butchers were unionized before,” Assaf Bondy, the south region coordinator for the Koach La Ovdim (Power to the Workers) trade union federation, told the *Militant* by phone Oct. 20. “The workers held a 10-day strike in October 2013. It was very rough because the workers occupied the factory and the owners used 100 guards to kick them out.”

“The labor court ruled that the workers have the right to strike,” Bondy said. “At first we were surprised the butchers wanted to join a nonorthodox union, but they have a very strong belief in collective action and will have their own union local.” Koach La Ovdim organizes about 25,000 workers, including waiters, chemical workers, nurses and child care workers.

“There are 300 to 400 workers at the plant who are direct employees and not unionized yet,” said Bondy. “Ninety-nine percent of them are Bedouin. We have a big incentive to unionize them, to improve their working conditions.”

“There is still a big social gap between the two groups, they don’t talk to each other,” Bondy said. “We hope this is the beginning of organizing about 16 other slaughterhouses and winning an industry-wide agreement.”

— SETH GALINSKY

Jewish developments have been built in a ring around the city’s Arab neighborhoods.

In September, the Israeli government announced it was nationalizing 1,000 acres of Palestinian land near Bethlehem to allow for the expansion of a bloc of nine nearby settlements. The plan is seen by many as collective punishment for the June kidnapping and murder of three Jewish teenagers in the area by Hamas operatives. The killings preceded Tel Aviv’s most recent assault on Gaza.

Israel’s Civil Administration has also been stepping up demolition of Bedouin homes in Area C. According to the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, in the first eight months of 2014, 346 buildings were

razed, leaving 668 Palestinians homeless, more than in any other period in the last five years.

In mid-September Tel Aviv said it was getting ready to evict 12,500 Bedouin who live near East Jerusalem, Ramallah and Jericho and relocate them to Ramata Nu-eimeh, a town near Jericho built by Israeli authorities.

“We’re mainly shepherds,” Jamil Hamadin, the spokesperson for one of the Bedouin families facing eviction, told the *Militant* Oct. 7. “We came to live here after we were expelled from the Negev Desert by Israel during the 1948 war.”

“Each family has its own sheep, some have 70 or 80, some have 200,”

Continued on page 7

THE MILITANT

Defend women’s right to choose abortion

Opponents of women’s rights are pressing to impose onerous requirements for abortion providers that limit the availability of safe, legal abortions. The ‘Militant’ covers the fight to defend abortion rights and explains why it’s a crucial issue facing the labor movement.



Protest in McAllen, Texas, Oct. 4 against court ruling restricting access to abortion.

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

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

New contributors boost SWP Party-Building Fund

BY PAUL MAILHOT

The success of the *Militant* subscription campaign has inspired efforts across the country to reach out and win new contributors to the SWP Party-Building Fund. Five areas have raised their quotas in the last several weeks, with Chicago making two increases. Local quotas plus other in-hand contributions now stand at the \$100,000 mark. Some \$59,000 has been collected, with

two weeks remaining in the drive.

At an Oct. 16 Philadelphia Federation of Teachers demonstration to protest the city government's elimination of their union contract, many expressed appreciation for solidarity they've received from other workers. Encarna Rodriguez, who trains teachers, and her husband John Lavin, a high school teacher, met SWP members at the rally. "It is important that socialist ideas are being discussed in this country," Rodriguez said, making a \$15 contribution to "the causes" the party is fighting for.

Socialist workers in Miami organize a regular sale of the *Militant* to dockworkers in southern Florida. Clarence Mann, who has had his union card for 40 years, gave \$10 to the Party-Building Fund last week. "I support what you all are doing," he said. "The paper gives you examples of struggles, like the Honeywell lockout, that show why we need to keep union rights and conditions." Four longshoremen from the area have donated so far.

"The Socialist Workers Party's work to explain what's really going on in the struggles of workers worldwide is extremely important," said Dex Sims, a *Militant* subscriber from Akron, Ohio, who contributed to the fund for the first time. "Workers need this kind of party."

The Party-Building Fund runs through Nov. 11. To allow for payments to arrive in the mail, the final scoreboard will be printed in the *Militant* that goes to press Nov. 19. All contributions received by Nov. 18 will be counted.



Militant/Arlene Rubinstein

Militant supporter Sergio Zambrana, right, talks with SEIU Local 32BJ member during march against outsourcing union jobs by Howard University in Washington, D.C., Oct. 27.

‘Militant’ drive over the top

Continued from front page

Supporters of the *Militant* participated in a public health forum on Ebola Oct. 25 attended by 300 people in Brooklyn Park, a suburb of Minneapolis with a large Liberian population. At the forum, *Militant* supporter Ruth Robinett said Cuba has sent large medical teams to countries in Africa affected by the Ebola epidemic, while the U.S. has not, "because health care here is a profit-based business, not a human right." A total of 18 people signed up to receive the *Militant* at the meeting and in the surrounding area.

In New York partisans of the socialist weekly took part in a meeting Oct. 25 of more than 200 in support of the Cuban Five. (See article on

front page.) That night others joined a "Solidarity Event for Shengal and Kobani," organized by the Kurdish American Society. "I'll get these articles around to others I know," said Erdad Kose, a Kurd originally from Turkey and a professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, who had read the *Militant's* coverage of the Kurdish struggle, and bought a subscription at the event.

Members of UNITE HERE Local 54 demonstrated Oct. 24 in front of billionaire Donald Trump's Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Oct. 24 to protest the voiding of their contract by a federal bankruptcy judge.

"They want everything put on the workers," Kaushik Vashi, a member of Local 54 and a housekeeper at the casino, told *Militant* supporters as he bought a copy of the paper. "It's like robbery."

The Unifor local at the Bombardier railcar plant in Thunder Bay, Ontario, mailed a *Militant* subscription to the paper's supporters in Montreal last week. Last month a *Militant* reporting team covered the union's successful strike against the company's attack on pension benefits for new hires.

In Omaha, Nebraska, *Militant* supporters talked to workers at shift change at the Kellogg Company cereal plant there, where members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union have been working without a contract since May. Workers bought seven copies of the paper and one subscription.

"I'm asking that you renew my subscription and continue to cover the news that the capitalists will not," a prisoner in Florida wrote. He was one of 32 workers behind bars who subscribed to the *Militant* in the last seven weeks, bringing the number of incarcerated workers who read and circulate the paper to 106! "I am working hard to get other inmates to subscribe to the paper," wrote another prisoner.

If you would like to subscribe to the *Militant* or help get it around, contact distributors near you. (See list on page 8.)

Party-Building Fund Week 6

Area	Quota	Collected	%
Twin Cities	\$5,000	\$3,702	74%
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$6,145	71%
Seattle	\$7,600	\$5,275	69%
New York	\$10,000	\$6,680	67%
Boston*	\$3,750	\$2,355	63%
San Francisco*	\$14,500	\$8,880	61%
Philadelphia	\$4,200	\$2,519	60%
Washington, DC	\$7,800	\$4,570	59%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$4,435	55%
Chicago**	\$10,500	\$5,713	54%
Miami	\$2,800	\$1,424	51%
Brooklyn	\$10,000	\$4,950	50%
Nebraska*	\$3,350	\$1,082	32%
Lincoln*	\$150	\$75	50%
Omaha*	\$3,200	\$1,007	31%
Houston	\$3,300	\$1,005	30%
Other		\$600	
Total	\$99,400	\$59,335	59%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$75,000	75%
* raised goal			

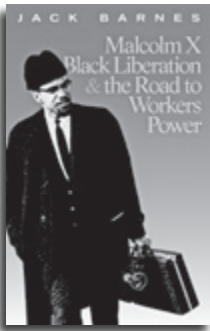
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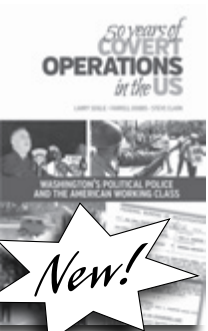
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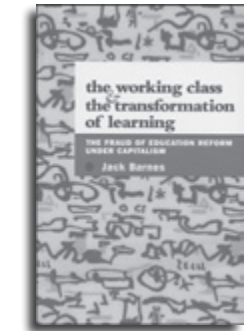
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National Day of Action to protect
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Called by the four major postal unions

Friday, Nov. 14
Washington, D.C., and other cities
For more info go to www.apwu.org

Ebola response: Cuba vs. US

Continued from front page
contain the virus,” the editors wrote.
What is getting much less comment is the equally sharp difference between the decisive steps by Cuba’s communist leadership to prevent the spread of the epidemic there or elsewhere in the Americas, and the delayed and erratic public health measures by federal and state governments and political parties in the U.S., including quarantines as needed to stem new infections.

Stopping Ebola’s spread

Cuba has sent 256 health workers, selected from 15,000 volunteers, to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, far more than any other country in the world. Another 205 volunteers have completed the three weeks of rigorous training, including the use of full-body protective suits, and are waiting for the needed infrastructure to be put in place.

Cuba’s revolutionary government is not only organizing to treat those infected with Ebola, but also to minimize the risk to medical volunteers and stop the virus’s spread. Any Cuban infected will be treated at a site for international aid workers in Africa and only return to Cuba when they recover, reports Jorge Pérez, director of Cuba’s Pedro Kourí Institute for Tropical Medicine.

All volunteers returning to Cuba will be quarantined for 21 days at a hospital when they arrive.

Cuba allows travelers from West Africa to visit Cuba if they voluntarily enter quarantine. As of Oct. 20, 28 people from Sierra Leone, Guinea, Congo, Nigeria and Cuba have done so.

In contrast, the methods of the profit-driven U.S. health care “industry” and federal, state and local governments promise much, deliver little, and often do damage.

Just ask the family and friends of Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian visitor to Dallas denied timely treatment in September, who died as a result of the class-differentiated character of U.S. health “care.”

Two nurses who treated Duncan also contracted the disease but survived. The National Nurses United labor union points out that those caring for Duncan received insufficient training, got inadequate protective equipment, and received no clear guidance on safety protocols from federal agencies.

Craig Spencer, a doctor who recently returned from staffing a Doctors Without Borders clinic in Guinea, spent two days circulating in New York City’s general population, going bowling and

traveling by subway and taxi after he first began to feel ill. He was hospitalized Oct. 23, and several people who had contact with him have been placed in isolation.

Attempting to protect their political interests in face of these fiascos, capitalist politicians are responding in the callous, bureaucratic ways consistent with social relations that elevate the profits of a handful of capitalist families above human solidarity.

New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, for example, ordered nurse Kaci Hickox — just returned from working with Doctors Without Borders in Sierra Leone — to be confined in a tent outside Newark’s University Hospital, with a portable toilet, no shower and little reading material.

The polar opposite of the effective and dignified 21-day quarantine planned for returning Cuban doctors and nurses! For those who compete for the honor of serving as part of this mission.

In face of these failures, divisions are opening among the U.S. rulers, including between the White House and its own top military brass. Washington has pledged to send 4,000 soldiers to build 18 health clinics in West Africa, and as of Oct. 22 some 500 had been sent.

On October 28, Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army chief of staff, ordered Army personnel returning from Ebola-stricken countries to be housed in isolation on U.S. bases for 21 days before returning to families, friends, and the public. And Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has proposed that all U.S. soldiers returning from those countries be quarantined.

Aiming to avoid a politically damaging dispute with his top military appointees, President Barack Obama argued at an Oct. 28 White House press briefing that such measures are appropriate for soldiers since their deployments are not voluntary. “We don’t expect them to have similar rules,” he said.

But when it comes to U.S. medical personnel in West Africa — who have direct contact with Ebola patients and are at greater risk — Obama insisted that a quarantine would discourage volunteers and undermine efforts by U.S. institutions “to keep leading the global response.”

“No other nation,” the U.S. president said, “is doing as much to make sure that we contain and ultimately eliminate the outbreak than America.”

But it is not imperialist “America” but socialist Cuba that is “leading the global response.” The White House’s rational-

Thomaston, Georgia, march presses fight to fire cop



Militant/Rachele Fruit

THOMASTON, Ga. — Some 50 people attended a march and rally here Oct. 18, the latest in a several-month fight to force the police department to fire officer Phillip Tobin, whose brutality against working people has been documented in dozens of complaints.

“Some say the Thomaston Improvement Association has gone away,” said Rhondalynn Traylor, above center, the group’s president, addressing a rally on the steps of the R. E. Lee government building Oct. 18. “But I’m here to tell you that we’re here to stay — for Thomaston, for Ferguson, for Savannah and everywhere where our rights are being violated.”

On June 11 a camera caught Tobin using a taser on 28-year-old Kelcey Rockemore when Rockemore had his hands up. The incident was the last straw that sparked protests by working people in this town 75 miles south of Atlanta and led to the formation of the Thomaston Improvement Association. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is examining the charges against Tobin, now on paid leave from the police department.

“From Ferguson to Thomaston: An Injustice to One is an Injustice to All,” read the flyer used to build the demonstration. During the rally a message was delivered by speaker-phone from Penny Nelson, mother of Charles Smith, who was killed by cops in Savannah Sept. 27. “Don’t give up!” Nelson said, to cheers from protesters. “We have to stand up for each other and for our rights, or they will keep doing it.”

— SUSAN LAMONT

ization of its course is a tissue of hypocrisy and lies.

On Oct. 27, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced new measures, including requiring that most health workers who have been treating or working around Ebola patients submit to a daily in-person medical exam and be in contact with local health officials about their temperatures — but no restrictions on their movement until they are diagnosed with symptoms.

Lessons from AIDS epidemic

In fighting Ebola’s spread, Cuba has adopted social measures like it used in fighting the AIDS epidemic. From the 1980s until 1993, everyone in Cuba who

tested positive was placed in quarantine and, like everyone in Cuba, provided medical care at no cost.

Along with ongoing education on
Continued on page 6

—**MILITANT
LABOR
FORUMS**—

ILLINOIS
Chicago
Don’t Waste Your Vote! Vote Socialist Workers! Speaker: Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Illinois. Sun., Nov. 2, 6 p.m. 2018 S Ashland Ave. Tel.: (312) 874-2863.



Cuban health workers in Liberia. Cuba’s response to Ebola in Africa starts with defending needs of workers worldwide, in sharp contrast to profit-driven U.S. health care industry.

Condemn assassination of Venezuelan legislator, aide

Venezuelan legislator Robert Serra, 27, a leader of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela and its youth group, and his aide María Herrera were stabbed to death Oct. 1 in their Caracas home in a crime that Interior Minister Miguel Rodríguez called “intentional, planned and executed with great precision.”

Thousands of people came to the National Assembly Oct. 3 to honor the two and marched in the funeral procession led by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

These are not the first assassinations of Venezuelan government figures. Eliécer Otaiza, a United Socialist Party local councilor, was murdered in Caracas in April. Serra’s bodyguard was assassinated in 2012. State attorney Danilo Anderson, who led the prosecution of several of those charged with taking part in the failed 2002 U.S.-backed rightist military coup against then-President Hugo Chávez, was assassinated in a car-bombing in 2004.

Workers in the U.S. and around the world should condemn the killing of Serra and Herrera. The aim of the murders is to close space for workers, farmers and youth to advance their class interests and set back ongoing struggles that began with the 1989 “Caracazo” uprising against anti-working-class measures imposed at the time by the government of President Carlos Andrés Pérez. These political assassinations are aimed at dealing blows to the country’s political and economic independence from Washington and its collaboration with the revolutionary government of Cuba. They’re aimed at working people involved in struggles for land, improved conditions on the job, and access to education, health care, water, electricity and housing.

—MAGGIE TROWE

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help make this column a voice of workers' resistance!

This column is dedicated to spreading truth about the labor resistance unfolding today, by giving voice for those engaged in battle, and providing a conduit for growing solidarity. Its success depends on input from readers. If you are involved in a struggle with the bosses or have information on one, please contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or 212-244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

— Maggie Trowe

San Francisco airport food workers fight for higher wages

SAN FRANCISCO — Chanting “Airport restaurants you’re no good! Sign a contract like you should!” some 200 food service workers picketed Terminal 2 at San Francisco International Airport for four hours Oct. 8, handing out flyers listing three dozen airport restaurants where about 1,000 workers have been without a contract since Sept. 1, 2013.

The workers are paid from \$13.16 to \$16 per hour, Richard Kuan, UNITE HERE Local 2 organizer, told the *Militant*. “They need a raise.”

Food service workers are also fighting for medical coverage, pensions and job security.

“As restaurants come and go, workers are threatened with layoffs,” Kuan said. “New owners should have to hire from those laid off and maintain their seniority and benefits.”

— Carole Lesnick

Laborers in Washington, DC, strike for union representation

TYSONS CORNER, Va. — Construction workers employed by Baker DC carried out a one-day strike here Oct. 21. It was their fourth such action in five months at three worksites. The

strikes are part of the Laborers’ union campaign to organize construction workers in the Washington, D.C., area.

Construction workers are fighting for higher wages and union representation by Concrete Workers United Local 202, a division of the Laborers’ union.

A construction boom in upscale hotels and housing as well as retail and office buildings has fueled workers’ confidence.

“For the bosses, this spells profits. But for the workers, this means more mistreatment,” Abdon Urrutia, 23, told the *Militant*. “The pay is low and the work is hard — eight, 10, 12 hours a day, no lunch break, and \$12, \$13 an hour to start.”

“Safety is another big issue,” said Urrutia, who was injured on the job six months ago.

Lindolfo Carballo, an organizer with Casa de Virginia, an immigrant rights coalition, joined the picket line with other members of the group. “Workers are not separated from the community,” he said. “It’s part of the same struggle. We are the same people.”

— Arlene Rubinstein

Quebec day care workers strike for pay raise

MONTREAL — Some 14,000 day care workers who care for 90,000 children carried out a Quebec-wide strike Oct. 20 to demand the provincial government increase their wages and pay them for all hours worked. More than 1,000 strikers marched to the office of Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard. A similar size rally took place in Quebec City.



Militant/Bev Bernardo

Day care workers rally in Montreal during Oct. 20 walkout.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 10, 1989

SAN FRANCISCO — Nothing could have prevented the earthquake that rocked San Francisco Bay Area on October 17. But the loss of life that resulted was unnecessary.

The majority of the fatalities occurred when a one-and-a-quarter mile stretch of an interstate highway collapsed in Oakland. Rush hour commuters on the lower deck of Interstate 880 were crushed in their cars as the concrete-and-steel roadway supports shattered and the upper deck came crashing down.

J. David Rogers, a seismic engineer, studied [the highway] in 1975 as a graduate student and found it had “zero reinforcement on the supporting columns.”

“We knew the structure needed some changes,” Jerry Oliver of the California Department of Transportation said, “It’s a question of money.”



November 9, 1964

In a stunning hit-and-run attack a week ago, a handful of daring Vietnamese guerrillas cost Washington at least 25 million dollars. They destroyed five and damaged 15 more B-57 bombers. The guerillas were apparently using mortar ammunition captured from the French during the Indo-Chinese war before 1954.

On the one hand, the liberation fighters are using out-dated weapons which they have captured over the course of their 20-year liberation struggle.

On the other hand, the U.S. forces are equipped with the most advanced nuclear weapons ... and B-57s aren’t counter-guerilla weapons. The B-57 is a long-range bomber equipped with heavy nuclear bombs, designed for attacking industrial centers and large military installations.



Michael Blain

Construction workers picket during one-day strike in Tysons Corner, Virginia, Oct. 21, part of Laborers’ union effort to organize workers in the Washington, D.C., area.

The Quebec Federation of Day Care Workers, which has been without a contract since November 2013, also organized rotating regional strikes throughout the province Oct. 13-17. The unionists, who negotiate their contract with the province, are demanding a wage increase to \$15 per hour (US\$13.30). Currently they receive \$12 per hour for a 35-hour workweek.

“We’re working 50 hours every week, probably more, and we’re paid for only 35,” Benilda Vicente told the *Militant* at the rally here. “We have to do cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping as well as preparing activities for the children.”

The provincial government has subsidized child care since 1997, a gain won by decades of struggles by unions and women’s rights supporters.

— Beverly Bernardo

Walmart workers demand \$15 per hour and full-time work

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Chanting “Fifteen, full-time!” and “They say rollback, we say fight back,” some 200 Walmart workers and their supporters rallied Oct. 16 at the AFL-CIO headquarters here and then marched to the Walton Family Foundation offices, demanding Walmart pay \$15 per hour and provide full-time work.

“They make billions on the backs of workers, while we can barely afford to pay rent, gas and medical bills,” said Cynthia Murray, 58, a former truck driver who has worked at Walmart for 14 years in Laurel, Maryland.

“The workers need a union to orga-

nize themselves,” said Faye Lawson, a material handler for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and a shop steward for Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689.

In addition to Walmart workers, speakers included Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO; Eleanor Holmes-Norton, delegate to the U.S. House from the District of Columbia; and U.S. Rep. Donna Edwards from Maryland.

— Arlene Rubinstein and Ned Measel

NJ nursing home workers fight for return of locked-out unionists

NEW YORK — Some 450 nursing home workers at four Alaris Health facilities in New Jersey are fighting for a contract and demanding reinstatement of workers who were locked out following a three-day strike in September.

Nurses aides, kitchen staff and house keeping attendants, organized by 1199SEIU, have been without a contract for nearly seven months.

“The biggest issues are insurance, a pay raise, respect and the workload,” Ella Moton, a certified nursing assistant at the Harborview nursing home in Jersey City, said in a phone interview Oct. 22. “Caring for 12 people is just too much for one person.”

On Sept. 30, 1199SEIU organized a rally of several hundred to protest Alaris Health’s retaliatory lockout of two dozen workers. The National Labor Relations Board has also filed a complaint against the company.

“Some workers have returned to work, but others are still out,” Bryn Lloyd-Bollard, a union staff member, told the *Militant* Oct. 22.

“Everyone’s supposed to be back by next week,” said Rosalyn Gibbs, a CNA at Alaris’ Castle Hill facility in Union City, where most of the locked-out unionists work. “We still don’t have a contract, but I’m optimistic we will soon.”

— Sara Lobman and Candace Wagner



Militant/Sara Lobman

Nursing home workers at Sept. 30 rally in Union City, N.J., protest lockout of unionists.



November 10, 1939

DETROIT, Nov. 7 — Chrysler workers remain locked out of their plants while corporation officials are stalling and hedging on the just demands of the auto workers union.

Sufficient concessions have already been made by the corporation to prove the justified basis of the workers’ grievances. The main demands for a union shop and voice in setting of production standards are still the object of haggling.

Despite the loud-voiced publicity of the Corporation about slow-down strikes, “sovietization” and similar buncombe, they have agreed to rehire some 70 men of the original 105 discharged on the alleged charges indicated above. The union has refused to trade the jobs of any of the workers fired. They are remaining firm on the demand that all of those fired be returned to their jobs.

Don't waste your vote!

Continued from front page

dates across the country promote solidarity with working people in struggle, they have been pointing to the need of workers and their allies to break from the twin parties of capital and build their own party, a labor party based on the unions that gives political voice to all the exploited and the oppressed.

The capitalists rule through the two-party system, with the alternative for working people always being the lesser of two evils.

Don't waste your vote on capitalist politicians. They are the ones who promote war to protect the profits of the bosses; the ones backing the employers' drive to cut wages and make our conditions of work more dangerous; the ones piling restrictions on the right of women to choose abortion; and the ones who back the brutality of cops and the imprisonment of millions of working people.

The propertied rulers have no answer to the worldwide crisis of capitalist production and trade. But their assaults on our living standards, rights and very dignity are already generating stirrings of working-class resistance. Through growing class battles ahead, working people in the U.S. and worldwide will gain the experience, confidence and a sense of self-worth necessary to take power as working people in Cuba did in 1959. For more than five decades, the ethical values that have always guided the Cuban Revolution have stood in sharp contrast to the moral bankruptcy of dog-eat-dog capitalism and show what working people can accomplish.

Over the course of the campaign, SWP candidates have joined labor resistance and social struggles, and speak to the issues of world politics from the point of view of the interests of working people around the globe.

John Benson, SWP gubernatorial candidate in Georgia, joined a rally and spoke at a city council meeting in Thomaston, Georgia, July 17 to support the demand by working people there to sack police officer Phillip Tobin, notorious for harassing and brutalizing area residents. "I'm here from Atlanta to extend a hand of solidarity to those standing up and fighting," Benson said. "History is made by those who fight, not by those who are elected."

Mary Martin, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Washington's 9th District, helped build protests outside the Tacoma Detention Center to support hundreds of immigrant workers behind bars who organized rolling hunger strikes against deportations and brutal conditions. She

campaigned among native-born and immigrant workers alike on the need to "back the fight for equal status before the law for foreign-born workers" and "organize the unorganized!"

Dennis Richter, the party's candidate for Nebraska governor, traveled to Creston, Iowa, to join with rail workers defending job safety and the safety of those who live near the tracks by fighting demands by the owners of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to operate trains with a one-person "crew." The SWP campaign in Nebraska demands rail crews of no less than four people, a cap on train length at 50 cars and mandatory repairs and safety upgrades.

After returning from a reporting and solidarity trip to Ukraine, Frank Forrestal, the party's gubernatorial candidate in Minnesota, addressed some 75 participants at a May 9 rally in Minneapolis to protest Moscow's occupation of Crimea with a message of international working-class solidarity. "The Russian government is worried that working people there will follow the example of the mass uprising in Ukraine," Forrestal said.

Chris Hoeppner, SWP candidate for Pennsylvania governor, joined some 60 people originally from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea in an Oct. 25 walk in Philadelphia against stigmatization of West Africans because of the Ebola epidemic. Hoeppner also helped organize events and spoke out to build support for the fight to free the Cuban Five.

Vote Socialist Workers Party November 4! If you find undemocratic and anti-working-class laws have kept the socialist ticket off the ballot, write in the candidate's name. (See list on this page.)

Supreme Court ruling restricts voting rights

BY JOHN STUDER

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Oct. 18 that officials in Texas can implement the state's onerous voting regulations for the 2014 election, which will effectively disenfranchise more than half a million working people. The court's decision puts on hold an Oct. 9 federal ruling that said the Texas law "creates an unconstitutional burden on the right to vote, has an impermissible discriminatory effect against Hispanics and African-Americans, and was imposed with an unconstitutional discriminatory purpose."

"This is a very bad decision," Kenneth Davidson, president of the Palestine, Texas, NAACP, told the *Militant*. "Many elderly, disabled or just plain poor African-Americans and Hispanics



Militant/Osborne Hart

Chris Hoeppner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, discusses campaign while participating in Walk for Ebola Awareness in Philadelphia Oct. 25.

Two class responses to Ebola

Continued from page 4

how to avoid contracting the virus and widespread distribution of condoms, more than 2 million tests for the virus were done in Cuba in 2011 alone, and doctors are trained to be on the lookout for AIDS-related disease.

Cuba was at high risk for AIDS. Since the 1959 revolution, thousands of Cuban internationalist volunteers — from soldiers to doctors and engineers — have traveled all over the world, from Africa to Haiti to Asia. While almost all U.S. cases of AIDS are a single strain, Cuba has 21 different ones.

Cuba's course has worked. Its AIDS infection rate is one-sixth that of the United States. "The population of Cuba is only slightly larger than that

of New York City," an article in the *New York Times* noted in May 2012. "In the three decades of the global AIDS epidemic, 78,763 New Yorkers have died of AIDS. Only 2,364 Cubans have."

Today Cuban volunteers in West Africa are aware both of the responsibility they shoulder and why such human solidarity is essential.

"This is the biggest challenge I have confronted in my life," Dr. Osmany Rodríguez, veteran of Cuban medical missions to Venezuela and Zimbabwe, told CNN. "To break the transmission [of Ebola] is important," he said. "Not for the Cuban people, not for the African people. For the whole world."

can't afford the trip or the costs of getting a state ID.

"For over 100 years the Texas government has a history of official racial discrimination in voting, education, employment and housing," he continued. "The Supreme Court decision will keep a lot of Blacks and Hispanics from being able to vote."

The Texas law is one of a number of state attacks on voting rights adopted on the heels of the June 2013 Supreme Court ruling that struck down a key section of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The act, a conquest of the mighty working-class fight for Black rights in the 1950s and '60s, struck down literacy tests, poll taxes and other tools used by Jim Crow officials to prevent Blacks from voting or running for office.

Based on the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution — gains codified during the Radical Reconstruction era following the Civil War — the Voting Rights Act forced nine states, including Texas, and parts of six more, to get approval from the Justice Department before changing any voting laws. This was called "preclearance."

When the Supreme Court gutted preclearance last year, Texas state officials immediately began to implement the most restrictive ID requirement in the country on the pretext of preventing voter fraud.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote a sharp dissent from the decision, joined by Elena Kagan and

Sonia Sotomayor. She said putting the law into effect would prevent more than 600,000 registered Texas voters from voting this November. "A sharply disproportionate percentage of these voters are African-American or Hispanic," she wrote.

In Houston alone some 103,000 registered voters lack the mandated IDs, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Oct. 21.

Before 2006 no one was prevented from voting for lack of identification. Today 31 states currently require some form of identification to vote. Among those, 21 states allow alternatives, such as signing an affidavit, while 10 do not. Other discriminatory measures include requiring proof of citizenship, limiting the time polls are open and shortening the period when people can register or vote. One special target is weekend voting, which hits especially hard at Black voters who often caravan from church to vote on Sunday before election day.

Voter ID laws also disproportionately disenfranchise women. Only 66 percent of women have their current name on citizenship documents due to changes from marriage or divorce, *Time* magazine reported Oct. 24.

Lawsuits challenging voter ID laws and other efforts to roll back the right to vote have been filed in North Carolina, Wisconsin, Ohio, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Kansas and Louisiana, as well as Texas. The Arkansas Supreme Court struck down the state's photo ID requirement Oct. 15.

Vote for Socialist Workers candidates!

California

Ellie García, Governor
Eric Simpson, Lt. Governor

Florida

Naomi Craine, Governor

Georgia

John Benson, Governor
Susan LaMont, Lt. Governor

Illinois

Dan Fein, Governor

Massachusetts

Kevin Dwire, Governor

Minnesota

Frank Forrestal, Governor

Nebraska

Dennis Richter, Governor

New York

John Studer, Governor
Nancy Boyasko, Lt. Governor

Pennsylvania

Chris Hoeppner, Governor

Texas

Mike Fitzsimmons, Governor

Washington

Mary Martin, Congress, 9th CD

Washington, DC

Omari Musa, Mayor

Film tells story of Haitian workers in Cuba in 1930s

Fails to put that history in political context

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

Reembarque (Return Shipment) by Cuban documentary filmmaker Gloria Rolando tells the story of Haitian workers who emigrated to eastern Cuba during the sugar boom in the 1920s

IN REVIEW

and '30s. According to the film, some 700,000 Haitians were drawn to work in the huge sugar cane plantations, as well as sugar mills and coffee plantations, of Cuba's Oriente province.

During a time when Haiti was under U.S. military occupation, labor contractors were there recruiting workers to meet the growing demand for Cuban sugar, what the film describes as the "gold of that time." Once in Cuba, Haitian workers lived in plantation communities called *bateyes*, under deplorable living conditions.

Then in 1937, with the onset of a deep economic slump, thousands of Haitian immigrants were deported back to their home country. The film shows how they were rounded up by the hated Rural Guard — which functioned as a private police force for the sugar barons — onto large ships crammed shoulder to shoulder.

Reembarque premiered Oct. 11 at the Minneapolis Art Institute, sponsored by Obsidian Arts, the Minnesota International Center and the Minnesota Cuba Committee. About 100 people turned out for the showing, which kicked off a U.S. tour for film and director. It was presented in cooperation with the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry (ICAIC).

The documentary is well done and features interviews with several older Haitians who lived through the period, as well as contributions by Cuban researchers and government officials. It also includes interesting footage showing the rich Haitian cultural heritage



Haitian workers brought to work in Cuba during sugar boom of the 1920s and '30s were deported in 1937 economic downturn.

that remains strong in Cuba — music, dance, food, Voodoo. But the 58-minute film, unfortunately, passes up the opportunity to place the experiences of the Haitian laborers in the broader context of what was happening in Cuba and the world in the 1930s and explain the impact it had on those who would become leaders of the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

In one scene, for example, Jorge Risquet, a leader of the PSP youth in 1959 (Popular Socialist Party was the name adopted by the Communist Party in Cuba in 1944), says that he had been unaware of what the Haitian workers faced in Cuba and first learned about them from Raúl Castro. Risquet says Castro was very familiar with the conditions of Haitian laborers and spoke of them with high regard. But nothing further on this is explained.

One piece stuck in my craw. Rolando interviews a Haitian worker who describes how Castro's father employed many Haitian workers — one worker called it a "little Haiti." The young Fidel would often play baseball with the workers and provide mitts, bats, etc. Fidel played first base and everyone was "very happy," he said. But when Fidel wasn't around they couldn't play because he had all the equipment and the Haitians were too poor to provide even a bat.

Going deeper, the documentary could have tapped into what Castro has written and said about this period. It would have made the film more understandable and interesting.

In the autobiographical interview *My Life*, an exchange takes place between co-author Ignacio Ramonet and Fidel about Haitian workers during this period. "During the years of the sugar boom they'd come by the tens of thousands to help with the planting, cultivating and harvesting of the sugar cane," Castro says. "They worked in the cane fields as practically slaves, with great sacrifice, very low wages."

"I think — in fact, I'm absolutely sure — that 19th century slaves had a higher standard of living and better care than those Haitians," Castro says in an interview with Frei Betto, published in *Fidel and Religion*. "Slaves were treated like animals, but they were given food and taken care of so they'd live and produce. They were preserved as part of the plantation's capital. But those tens of thousands

Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, said during a recent visit to New York. "The Palestinians in the West Bank have been put in cantons, divided geographically by the Israeli settlements. Palestinians have been cut off from each other and from their farms and workplaces.

"It's 100 percent legitimate to demand that they take apart all of these settlements and withdraw to the 1967 borders," she said. "I don't see any other way. Otherwise a Palestinian state cannot be established."

Bangladesh: Garment workers rally to defend union



Militant/Martin Koppel

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Some 300 garment workers from Ha-Meem Sportswear rallied and marched through a busy street in the commercial center of this city Oct. 28, demanding the reopening of the factory, which was closed in a move by the owner to break the union. "Workers of the world, stand as one!" they chanted. Workers told the *Militant* they had recently organized a union and affiliated to the National Garment Workers Federation. When company threats and harassment failed to intimidate the unionists, the big majority of whom are women, the owner closed the plant Oct. 13 and called in the police to drive the workers out. Leaders of several other union federations spoke at the rally in a show of solidarity.

— EMMA JOHNSON

of Haitian immigrants could eat only when they worked, and nobody cared whether they lived or died of starvation."

Castro's godfather was the Haitian consul in Santiago de Cuba, "a wealthy — very wealthy — man," Castro says in *My Life*. One day the consul took Castro to see one of the ships that was full of Haitians, "like sardines in a tin, who'd been expelled from the country. ... [I saw] Haitians from the thatch houses where I ate roasted corn on the cob sent to that luxury liner on which they were expelled from Cuba, to face who knows what terrible hardships in their own country — which was and is even poorer than Cuba. They were sent from one terrible life of misery and

poverty to another even worse one."

"When the so-called Revolution of 1933 came along, it gave in to the so-called nationalization of labor and the demand that preference in hiring be given to Cubans, and that led to this event I was telling you about," explains Castro. That law "was mainly used to throw out thousands and thousands of Haitians who'd come to Cuba and lived on the island for over 20 years. ... So they shipped them off to Haiti in that cruel, merciless way, in that boat full of deportees. Truly inhuman."

This "inhuman" experience had a deep impact on the young Fidel and Raúl. "I had no idea, of course" says Fidel, "how valuable that experience would be to me later, how much it would help me understand the world."

Meetings, rallies back Kurds' fight to defend Kobani

Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, Kurdish fighters in Kobani, Syria, along Turkey's border have for more than 40 days defended their city against Islamic State forces. Their fight has inspired solidarity actions in cities around the world, several of which are described below. Another round of rallies is planned for Nov. 1.

New York

"The battle of Kobani is not just a battle of the Kurdish people, but all of humanity," said Lazkin Ibou, who has lived in Kobani. He was one of the speakers at a solidarity event organized by the Kurdish American Association in New York Oct. 25 to raise funds for Kurdish refugees from battles against Islamic State in Shengal, Iraq, and Kobani. Some 80 people attended the gathering that featured a concert by Kurdish musicians.

— Brian Williams

Auckland, New Zealand

In Auckland, some 200 people, mainly Kurds, rallied and marched Oct. 25. "Someone is always oppressing the Kurds," said Rez Ricardo, director of the Kurdish Youth Association and one of the organizers of the protest. "But it feels like we're closer than we've ever been to an independent Kurdistan." She, along with another young woman, wore T-shirts saying "Peshmerga," the name of the Kurdish military fighting in Iraq.

— Felicity Coggan

Montreal

"The Kurdish fighters are fighting not just for the Kurds, but for everyone who believes in a world free of oppression," Shahin Tavakol, a member of the Committee of Young Kurds, told the *Militant* at a fundraising dinner in Montreal Oct. 25 attended by some 80 people. The event was organized by the Kurdish youth group and the Kurdish Foundation of Quebec.

— John Steele

Israeli settlements on West Bank

Continued from page 2

Hamadin said. "We live in an area of 500 square kilometers [124,000 acres], where we have land for pasture. But all our houses are under orders to be demolished and the courts upheld it. They want to squeeze us all into a little area where we will have just half a dunam of land [one tenth of an acre] per family. This is unacceptable."

"If you take a look at the maps you can see how the settlements have expanded over the last five to 10 years," Suhad Bishara, a staff member of

Primitive society lacked class divisions, women's oppression

Sexism and Science by Evelyn Reed is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month. Reed (1905-1979) is the author of many works on women's oppression and the fight for their emancipation. A leader of the Socialist Workers Party and participant in the women's liberation movement of the 1960s and '70s, she defended early anthropologists' scientific findings on the origins of humanity and women's oppression, speaking about and debating these issues throughout the world. The piece below, written in 1957, is from the chapter "Evolutionism and Antievolutionism." Copyright ©1978 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EVELYN REED

Anthropology, like everything else in this world, was born in and through struggle. It emerged as a branch of science about a hundred years ago through a series of colossal battles against religious dogmas and petrified ideas.

The first major dispute centered around the antiquity of humankind. Theologians had established the duration of humanity in accord with the Bible at some six thousand years. Even the great French biologist Cuvier adhered to this orthodox view and argued that fossilized bones of men antedating this time did not exist. However, another Frenchman, Boucher de Perthes, ex-



Evelyn Reed, above, fourth from right, speaks at 1973 conference in Japan. Those who wished to perpetuate the dogma that private property and class distinctions always existed frowned upon discoveries of egalitarian and matriarchal aspects of ancient society, Reed explained.

ploded this prejudice by his discoveries of ancient stone axes in French deposits which paleontological tests proved were much older. His book published in 1846, demonstrating that fossil men and their tools dated back tens of thousands of years, was greeted with skepticism and scorn.

Continued discoveries of ancient human fossils and tools soon settled this question beyond dispute. ...

The second great battle was waged around the animal origin of humankind. It began with the publication in 1859 of [Charles] Darwin's *Origin of Species*, followed in 1871 by his *Descent of Man*. Darwin's proof that humanity arose out of the animal world, more specifically out of the anthropoid species, was a direct blow to the Adam-and-Eve myth. This was a more serious challenge to the divine origin of humanity than simply pushing the birth of mankind farther back in time. Yet, despite the hostility it encountered, Darwin's view became the point of departure for the first scientific study of the formation of humanity. A biologist applying materialist methods had cleared the road for linking anthropology to natural science. ...

The third major struggle unfolded over two interrelated basic distinctions between the institutions of modern and primitive society: the question of the

matriarchy versus the patriarchy, and the question of the clan versus the family. In his book *Das Mutterrecht*, published in 1861, [Johann Jakob] Bachofen, using literary sources as evidence, set forth the proposition that an epoch of matriarchy had preceded the patriarchal form with which we are so familiar. Bachofen noted that one of the most striking features of primitive life was the high social status and exceptional authority enjoyed by primitive women in contrast to their inferior status in the subsequent patriarchal epoch. He believed that this epoch of "mother right" which preceded "father right" resulted from the fact that fathers were unknown and the primitive group identified themselves exclusively through the maternal line.

The question of matriarchy was inextricably linked with the clan group of primitive times as contrasted with the individual family of modern times. Lewis Morgan, in his book *Ancient Society*, published in 1877, disclosed that the unit of primitive society was not the individual family but the gens, or clan.

[Frederick] Engels believed that Morgan's discovery was as important to the study of the primitive social structure as the discovery of the cell was to biology, or as Marx's concept of surplus value was to economics. Given the unit of the gens, or clan, the road was opened

for anthropologists to investigate and reconstruct the formation and organization of tribal life. As a result of his pioneer work, Morgan is hailed as the founder of American anthropology.

Morgan believed that the family, as it is constituted today, did not exist in ancient society and is essentially a product of civilized conditions. Before the family came the clan, which was composed not of fathers and mothers but of kinsmen and kinswomen, or clan "brothers and sisters." Morgan also indicated that the clan structure was matriarchal. Thus the dispute around the historical priority of the matriarchy over the patriarchy became inseparable from the controversy around the historical priority of the clan over the individual family.

The fourth and most persistent struggle unfolded around the sharp contrast between the basic economic and social relations of primitive and civilized society. Morgan demonstrated that modern society, founded upon the private ownership of the means of production and divided by class antagonisms between the propertied and nonpropertied, is the opposite of the way primitive society was organized. In the primitive community, the means of production were communally owned and the fruits of their labor equally shared. The clan was a genuine collective in which every individual was provided for and protected by the entire community, from the cradle to the grave.

This most basic feature of primitive life was characterized by Morgan and Engels as "primitive communism." But this collectivist social system as well as its matriarchal aspects were frowned upon and discounted by those who wished to perpetuate the dogma that the modern system of private property and class distinctions have persisted without essential change throughout the whole history of humankind.

The struggles around these four major issues, which arose through the researches of the nineteenth-century pioneer thinkers, gave birth to the science of anthropology. Although many questions remained unanswered, the classical school of anthropologists provided the keys for opening a series of hitherto closed doors into the recesses of ancient society. They were founders of the scientific investigation.

November

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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NY event: Free Cuban Five



Fighters against police brutality and racist frame-ups called for freedom of Cuban Five at New York meeting Oct. 25. From left, Juanita Young and Iris Baez, mothers of men killed by New York cops; Raymond Santana and Yusef Salaam, two of the Central Park Five, who were framed up as teenagers for rape and assault in 1989 and exonerated years later.

Continued from front page
tries that have not sent doctors of their own, offered to pay for the Cuban doctors, Reyes said. “We said no. We do not put our people in danger for money. That is not what we made a revolution for.”

The volunteers are driven by a sense of solidarity and a deep conviction that we must help people in need, Reyes said. “And they know that if they get sick, they will remain in Africa and be treated there to ensure that Ebola is not brought back to Cuba or the rest of the Caribbean and Latin America.

“This takes a certain kind of person,” said Reyes. “The Cuban Five are like this. They went to Florida because there was a need.”

The Five came to the U.S. in the 1990s to defend the Cuban people from rightist paramilitary organizations based in Florida that carry out acts of murder, sabotage and provocation aimed at undermining Cuba’s socialist revolution. The bombing of hotels, Reyes noted, took place during what Cubans refer to as the “special period” — an acute economic and social crisis in Cuba precipitated by the sudden loss of most foreign trade following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

“We tend to speak of the electrical blackouts,” Reyes said. “But the real

problem was we didn’t have enough food.” In response, the Cuban government made the decision to increase tourism to bring in needed revenue, he said. “That is why the groups in Miami targeted the tourist industry and why the Five volunteered to go to Miami and report back to Cuba on the plans of these organizations.”

Ike Nahem, one of the event’s organizers, opened the program, which was sponsored by a broad range of groups. Gail Walker, co-director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, and César Sánchez of the July 26 Coalition co-chaired.

Luis Barrios, a professor at John Jay College, welcomed people to the school. “The Cuban Five did what they were supposed to do,” he said. “Now it’s our responsibility to get them out and send them home.”

“We salute our fellow health care workers in Cuba and all those who have volunteered to go to Africa,” said Estela Vasquez, executive vice president of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, who called for the release of Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero, as well as other U.S. political prisoners, including Mumia Abu-Jamal and Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera.

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, on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government’s 1996 shoot-down of two Brothers to the Rescue planes 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 and Fernando González on Feb. 28 this year.

Bangladesh rally builds support for Cuban Five



Photos by the Militant

BARISAL, Bangladesh — Some 600 high school students and others attended a public rally here Oct. 25 demanding freedom for Cuban revolutionaries Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, and Antonio Guerrero, imprisoned by Washington on trumped-up charges for more than 16 years. The event was initiated by Jahangir Khan, inset, chairperson of Free the Cuban Five Bangladesh. It was held outside a high school in a rural area near this port city on the Kurtankhola River in southern Bangladesh.

“The U.S. government goes around the world presenting itself as a democracy, but that is not true, and we can see that in their unjust imprisonment of the Cuban Five,” said Khan. “We demand that they free our Cuban brothers now.”

Other speakers included, above from left, Surendra Raj Gosai, president of the Cuba Solidarity Committee of Nepal; Narayan Man Bijukchhe, chairman of the Nepal Workers and Peasants Party; Raymond Ferguson of the Asia-Pacific Solidarity Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea; Miqdhad Ismail of the People’s United Front of Sri Lanka; Sheikh Tipu Sultan, member of Parliament, Workers Party of Bangladesh; Kazi Emdadul Hoque, president of a local district of the Awami League, a major party in Bangladesh; Martín Koppel, co-author and co-editor of *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*, published by Pathfinder Press; and Ron Poulsen, representing the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society.

Another theme of the meeting was defense of North Korea in face of U.S. military and economic pressures, addressed in particular by Khan and Ferguson.

— RON POULSEN

Vasquez introduced the next four speakers: Yusef Salaam and Raymond Santana, two of the “Central Park Five,” who as teenagers were framed up in a highly sensationalized case for assault and rape of a woman jogging in Central Park in 1989 and spent many years in prison; Juanita Young, whose son Malcolm Ferguson, 23, was killed with three shots to the back of his head by cop Louis Rivera in 2000; and Iris Baez, whose son Anthony Baez, 29, was killed by officer Francis Livoti while playing football outside their Bronx home in 1994.

Cop brutality fighters back Cuban 5

“Back in 1989 hundreds of articles called us ‘superpredators’ to stigmatize us like the media did to Trayvon Martin and Ramarley Graham,” said Santana. “What made the difference for us was the public protests. Just like you stood with the Central Park Five, we all need to stand with the Cuban Five.”

The U.S. media and government try to dehumanize people — from the Vietnamese to the Central Park Five and the Cuban Five — to get the public to support attacks against them, said Salaam.

“The Cuban ambassador can’t talk about the U.S. government,” said Baez. “But I can. It’s corrupt from top to bottom, even the president.”

Young noted that officer Rivera, who admitted to killing her son, was never indicted. “The system is the problem. We still allow the same people in power. Mayor de Blasio brought back [Police Commissioner William] Bratton,” she said. “Mothers cry for justice. I would like to meet the mothers of the Cuban Five, to get together with them and go to Obama.”

Martin Garbus, the lead attorney for the Cuban Five, reviewed aspects of the frame-up of the Five and evidence

that came out after the trial that the U.S. government paid journalists who wrote prejudicial articles to influence the trial.

Claudia Mendoza, a student at John Jay College studying political science and a member of the People’s Power Movement, was the final speaker. Sunil Suwal, a student at Northeastern University Graduate School in Boston, came down for the meeting after learning about it online. “I first learned about the Cuban Five in Nepal where there have been several actions defending them over the years,” he said after the program. “I was really struck by the relationship between the Central Park Five and the Cuban Five.”

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 (Just \$3 for Militant subscribers)

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Correction

The article “Canada Rallies Protest Cops’ Disregard for Native Women” in issue no. 39 misspelled the name of the Native youth beaten by the cops and found dead in July. His name is Colton Crowshoe, not Crowshow.