

THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 5 FEBRUARY 16, 2015

Pipeline debate ignores energy needs of world's toilers

BY MAGGIE TROWE

In the name of protecting the environment, opponents of the Keystone XL pipeline — which would increase the capacity to deliver tar sand oil from Alberta, Canada, and fracked oil from North Dakota to refineries and ports in Texas — turn their back on the interests of workers worldwide, especially the burning need for electrification in Asia, Africa and elsewhere.

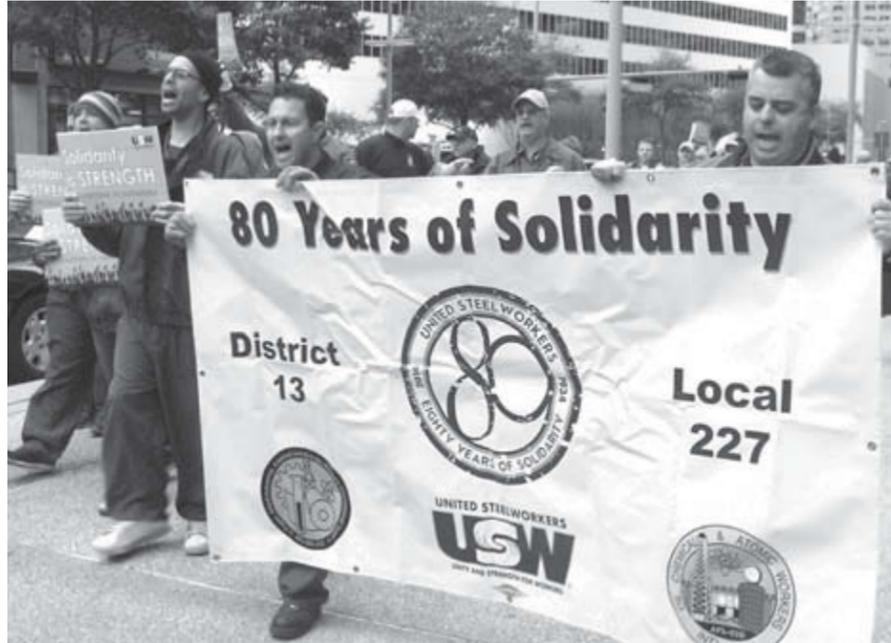
COMMENTARY

The fight for an expanding alliance of workers and farmers from Europe and the U.S. to China, India and Nigeria is only possible if our conditions are converging, if the toilers have the ability to get beyond the all-consuming battle just to survive. Electrification is critical to advance their struggles against the ravages of imperialism and to take on their national rulers along the road to power.

At the same time, workers need to
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Nat'l oil workers strike fights for job safety

Walkout at 9 refineries largest since 1980



Militant/Danielle London

Workers Feb. 3 picket office of LyondellBasell, owner of one of refineries in national strike.

BY BOB SAMSON

HOUSTON — Some 3,800 oil workers at nine refineries in Texas, California, Kentucky and Washington went on strike, or were involved in shutdown procedures in preparation to walk out, Feb. 1 after the United Steelworkers union and oil companies failed to reach a contract agreement.

This is the first nationwide strike since 1980.

The union represents 30,000 members at 230 refineries, oil terminals,
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Join national day of action for safe refineries

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Ukraine coal miners protest gov't attacks as war in east takes toll



Miners from across Ukraine demand unpaid wages and end to mine closures Jan. 28 in Kiev. Miners pound hats, hallmark of 1989-91 strikes that helped win Ukraine independence.

BY NAOMI CRAINE AND JOHN STUDER

Some 1,500 miners from across Ukraine demonstrated in Kiev Jan. 28-29 demanding unpaid wages and a halt to mine closures. The protests show many workers see the need to fight both to defend Ukraine's sovereignty against pro-Moscow separatist assaults in the east and to defend their jobs and social conditions from Ukraine's capitalist rulers. At the

same time renewed fighting between the combined forces of the separatists and troops sent by Moscow against pro-Ukrainian troops is taking a growing toll on working people in Donetsk and Luhansk.

Miners banged their helmets on the wall and the streets outside the Cabinet of Ministers, an action reminiscent of the 1989-91 wave of strikes and protests by miners. These mobili-

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Castro: End US embargo, normalize Cuba relations

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Days after the first session of talks between U.S. and Cuban officials on steps to restore diplomatic relations, both Fidel and Raúl Castro, the central historic leaders of the Cuban Revolution, made it clear the island's workers and farmers will stand by Cuba's socialist revolution and internationalist principles. There will be no progress toward normalizing relations between the two countries, Raúl said, until Washington ends its punishing 54-year embargo, returns the Guantánamo naval base to Cuba and respects Cuba's sovereignty.

The talks resulted from an agreement announced Dec. 17 by both U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro, which accompanied the release of two U.S. agents held by Cuba and the return of the three remaining members of the Cuban Five to Cuba after 16 years in U.S. prisons.

At every critical moment for the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro has helped clarify what is at stake and helped guide the revolutionary masses in Cuba and their allies around the world.

In a widely publicized Jan. 26 letter, Castro underlined the importance of the Cuban Revolution's example in a world of capitalist economic crisis

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Lawsuits challenge new Penn. law silencing prisoners, press

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Two lawsuits have been filed challenging a new Pennsylvania gag law that takes aim at prisoners' right to free speech and the rights of those who publish what they say.

Dubbed the "Revictimization Relief Act" — but more accurately described as a "Silencing Act" — the

lence people and cut prisoners out of the path for public discourse of public justice issues and to cut prisoners out of discussions in general," Paul Wright, editor of the Florida-based

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OPPOSE GAG LAW ON PRISONERS, PRESS!

— See editorial p. 11

law would allow a county district attorney, the state's attorney general or anyone who says they have been affected by a crime to file a civil lawsuit to shut down inmates' right to discuss their case, prison conditions or anything else, on the grounds it causes a victim or family member "a temporary or permanent state of mental anguish."

"The purpose of the law is to si-

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18,000 Kaiser nurses in Calif. win pay raise, staffing increase

Turkish metalworkers protest government order to end strike

Locked-out British Columbia rail workers keep up safety fight

'Selma' shows power of fight, distorts place of Malcolm X

BY SETH GALINSKY

"Selma" by Ava DuVernay, a film about the 1965 fight for voting rights in Selma, Alabama, gives a glimpse of the discipline, steadfastness and courage of the mass proletarian movement for Black rights that overthrew Jim Crow segregation and changed the United States — and the class struggle here — forever. Despite historical inaccuracies, it's worth seeing.

"Selma" takes place in 1965 when the fight for civil rights was mounting increasing pressure on the U.S. rulers. It came 10 years after seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a Caucasian man, spark-

rested and Shuttlesworth himself hospitalized after one attack, King tried to call off the protests at the urging of Attorney General Robert Kennedy. Shuttlesworth bolted from the hospital and told King in no uncertain terms the demonstrations would continue.

The victory in the Battle of Birmingham made Selma and Montgomery possible. It helped force passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, signed by President Lyndon Johnson, prohibiting racial discrimination in public places.

Jim Crow segregation was crumbling, but not yet defeated.

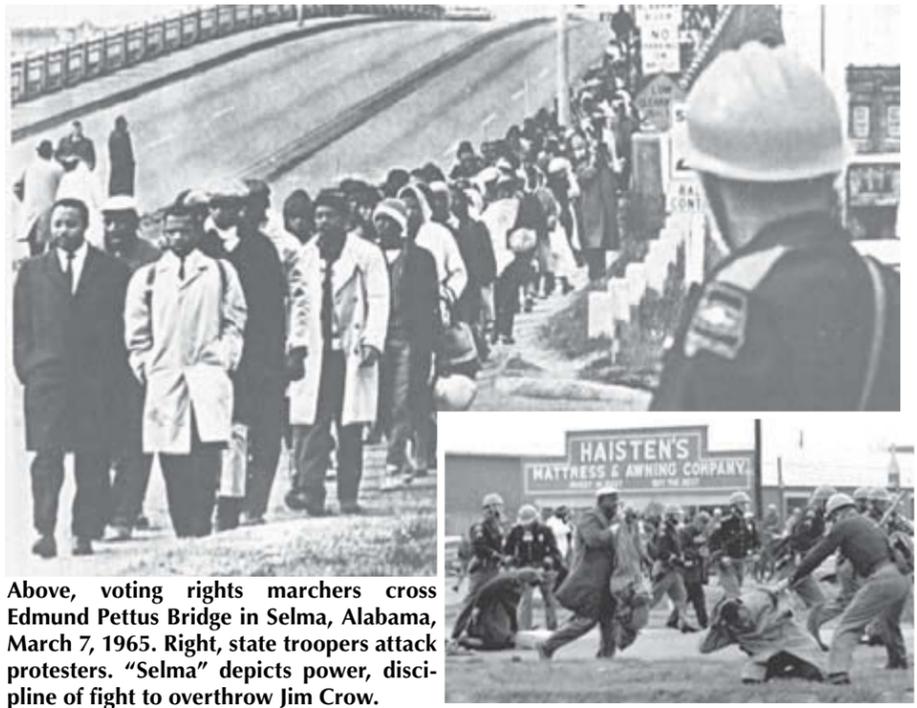
King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference made winning passage of a Voting Rights Act their next national campaign. Thousands of protesters met Selma police violence and arrests with discipline and courage, vividly brought to life in the movie.

Malcolm's revolutionary course

One major distortion in the film can't be left unchallenged.

King — in jail at the time — and his aides were alarmed that members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee had invited Malcolm X to speak in Selma. They were worried that more and more Black workers and youth were beginning to question King's insistence on nonviolence and reliance on the "good will" of Democratic Party politicians like President Johnson

The movie portrays Malcolm as telling Coretta Scott King not to worry, that "my eyes see in a new way," giving the false impression that Malcolm's views were moderating. "Allow me to be the



Above, voting rights marchers cross Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, March 7, 1965. Right, state troopers attack protesters. "Selma" depicts power, discipline of fight to overthrow Jim Crow.

alternative to your husband that scares them so much that they turn to Rev. King in refuge."

But King and Malcolm X put forward two irreconcilable and clashing class outlooks, King's built on winning reforms from friendly politicians and Malcolm's on advancing independent revolutionary struggle of the oppressed and working people of all colors against the capitalist world order.

"I frankly believe that since the ballot is our right that we are within our right to use whatever means is necessary to secure those rights," Malcolm told the press.

Unable to stop Malcolm from addressing 300 young civil rights fighters Feb. 4, Coretta Scott King took the stage after him in an attempt to limit his impact.

In Harlem a week later, Malcolm said that he explained in Selma that fighters for Black rights can't rely on the federal government to stop racist violence and the Ku Klux Klan. "The only way the Klan is going to be stopped is if you and I organize and stop them ourselves," he said.

While you'd never know it from watching "Selma," it is Malcolm's writings that remain a powerful tool today for those looking to make revolutionary change. Not King's bourgeois pacifism, commitment to the reformability of capitalism or his support for the Democratic Party.

Johnson supporters object to the film's portrayal of the president as a racist and reluctant supporter of civil rights legislation.

But the film captures the essence of Johnson's role. Television pictures seen around the world showing Black protesters attacked by police dogs and beaten by cops won further support for their fight to overthrow Jim Crow from Caucasian workers and others. And it was an embarrassment to Washington, which was trying to make inroads among the newly independent nations of Africa and other parts of the colonial world.

The U.S. propertied rulers saw the handwriting on the wall. They had to end Jim Crow or face a deeper radicalization that could threaten the interests of capitalism itself. Johnson, who came from a political era when the Democratic Party was built on a bloc between northern big city political machines and racist Dixiecrats in the South, tried to make the shift in a way that would allow the Democratic Party he led to maintain its dominance in U.S. politics.

"Selma" helps show how the heroic battles of the 1950s and '60s changed U.S. politics forever, tearing down the barriers that prevented Black and Caucasian workers from standing together. Working people of all skin colors would never accept a return to Jim Crow. We stand on the shoulders of the combatants of Birmingham and Selma.

FILM REVIEW

ing the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott. Pushed by E.D. Nixon, a local NAACP leader and unionist, a reluctant Martin Luther King Jr. agreed to be the movement's spokesperson. After a year of struggle, they won and the buses were desegregated.

A new stage in the battle came in 1963 when tens of thousands, including Black industrial workers — coal and iron ore miners and steelworkers — entered the fray in what became known as the Battle of Birmingham.

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a former truck driver and leader of the Birmingham movement, convinced King to support the desegregation fight there. In the face of attacks by police dogs and fire hoses, wave after wave of youth took to the streets. But after more than 2,500 people had been ar-

THE MILITANT

Defend a woman's right to abortion!

The right of a woman to control her own body, under attack by the capitalist rulers and their political parties, is a central question for the working class. The 'Militant' explains the stakes, supports the fight and gives a voice to those on the front lines of the struggle.

Militant/Bernie Senter
Abortion rights rally Jan. 24 in Austin, Texas.

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Workers fight frame-up for Lac-Mégantic rail disaster

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Railroad bosses, the cops and Canada's courts are pushing to frame up and punish Tom Harding, an engineer for the now-bankrupt Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway, as the person responsible for 47 deaths in the fiery train explosion July 6, 2013, in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. Under special dispensation from the federal government, the rail bosses were running the train, with 72 cars containing more than 2 million gallons of highly volatile crude oil, with only an engineer as crew.

Harding, along with Richard Labrie, who was rail controller at the time of the disaster, both workers and members of the United Steelworkers union, and company manager Jean Demaître, were arrested last May and each charged with 47 counts of "criminal negligence causing death." If convicted, they face possible life sentences.

Harding appeared before Judge Conrad Chapdelaine Jan. 15, who ordered a March 12 hearing to set the schedule for court proceedings. The preliminary hearing, which reviews the evidence and sets the date for the trial, is expected in the fall.

The company faces only the possibility of fines for safety violations.

From the beginning the bosses have tried to pin the blame on Harding. "The fact is this is a failure of one individual," Ed Burkhardt, former chairman of Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway, told the *Globe and Mail* Aug. 19 after a Transportation and Safety Board report had the temerity to say

the company had "a weak safety culture."

The night of the disaster, Harding parked the train outside Lac-Mégantic, as he had done many times before. He left the engine running to keep the air brakes on and setting the handbrakes on seven cars, in accordance with company rules. Later that night, while Harding was asleep, a fire broke out and firefighters were called to put it out. They shut down the engine, inadvertently turning off the air brakes.

At 1 a.m., the train, with no one on board, started to roll, faster and faster, until it derailed, crashed into the town and exploded.

Randy MacDonald, an engineer with Amtrak in the Albany, New York, area, used to work with Harding. "I spent 20 years every other night at the crossing where the train was parked," he told the *Militant* in a phone interview. "It could have been me. That crossing was our crew change point."

"The company was trying to save money," said MacDonald, who in 2013 set up the Tom Harding Defense Fund. "They changed their procedures. They had all the engineers shut down all the engines except the lead engine to save money on fuel. They parked on a hill.

"Management left the train unattended and when a fire broke out and the lead engine was shut down, they did not even send a qualified mechanical person to the scene to inspect the train, but a track department employee who has no knowledge of air brakes or train operations," MacDonald said.



Above, town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, after 72-car train containing volatile crude oil derailed and exploded, killing 47 people and destroying town, July 6, 2013. Inset, train's engineer Tom Harding, left, who bosses are trying to frame up for disaster caused by their profit drive, with attorney Thomas Walsh outside courthouse Jan. 15.



"He reported that everything was OK — that the fire was out — so no further action was taken."

MacDonald added that according to Canadian federal regulations, no handbrakes are required if the lead engine is running.

MacDonald has posted on the defense fund website articles on the dangers to rail workers and communities along the tracks posed by the rail bosses' push for the one-man crew.

Popular TV program exposes truth

The French-language television show *Enquête* ("Investigation") ran a special program Jan. 22 entitled "Lac-Mégantic, corrected version." The program said that an unpublished

draft of the Transportation and Safety Board reported that the absence of a second crew member likely contributed to the disaster. It criticized the Canadian government for changing regulations so Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway could run oil trains with one person.

Lac-Mégantic resident Guy Royer, whose daughter died in the disaster, told *Enquête* that when the explosion woke Harding up, he rushed to the site, risking his life to help firemen depressurize brakes on some of the cars that had not caught fire so they could be moved.

For this reason he is considered a hero by many in Lac-Mégantic. They were angered when he was charged, arrested at gunpoint at his home and then, along with the Labrie and Demaître, paraded in handcuffs to a temporary courthouse in the sports center near what was downtown Lac-Mégantic.

After the Jan. 15 court hearing, Harding's attorney, Thomas Walsh, told the press they hoped the case would go before a jury in Lac-Mégantic.

Shortly after charges were filed, the Quebec section of the Steelworkers union launched a defense campaign called "Justice 4 USW rail workers" to raise money for legal costs. To date \$200,000 (US\$158,000) has been raised, mostly from other USW locals in Canada.

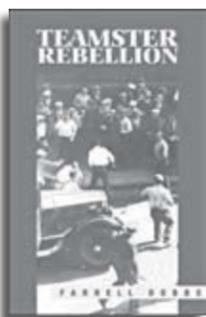
Lawyers representing 40 of the 47 families who lost members during the explosion and fire report they have reached a US\$158 million agreement — which still has to be approved by the Superior Court of Quebec — with the railroad, oil bosses and insurance companies. But more than half would go to federal, provincial and municipal governments. To date the victims of the disaster have not seen one penny.

To help Harding's defense, in Canada send checks to Syndicat des Métallos, 565, boulevard Crémazie Est, bureau 5100, Montreal, Quebec, H2M 2V8. Credit card donations can be made at www.justice4USWrailworkers.org.

In the U.S. checks can be sent to Tom Harding Defense Fund, First Niagara Bank, 25 McClellan Drive, Nassau, NY 12123. Donations can also be made at www.tomhardingdefensefund.com.

Amtrak worker Mindy Brudno contributed to this article.

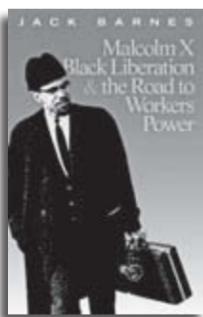
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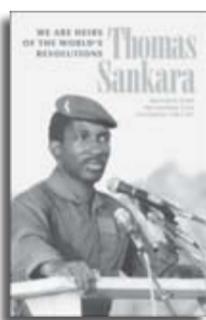
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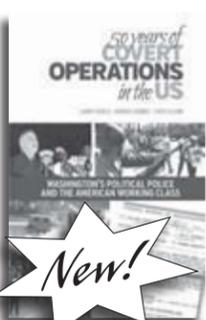
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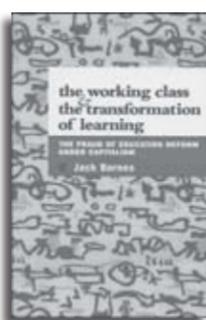
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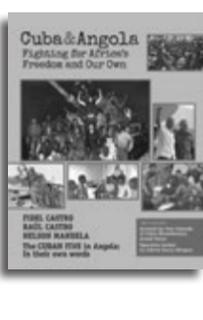
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Economic crisis in Russia pierces myth of Putin genius

BY NAOMI CRAINE

With oil prices around \$50 a barrel and tighter U.S.-led sanctions taking effect, Moscow — whose economy is deeply dependent on oil sales on the world market — faces an accelerating crisis. As the vulnerability of Russia's economy is revealed, with dire consequences for working people, the image cultivated by President Vladimir Putin for years of Moscow as a rising power capable of using its economic and military might to play a growing role in Europe and Asia is unraveling.

Putin is widely admired by many on the left as a brilliant strategic opponent of U.S. capital and by many on the right as a strong leader who upholds conservative social values.

Oil and gas make up some 68 percent of all Russian exports and provide more than half the government's national budget. As prices have tanked, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development estimates that the Russian economy will contract nearly 5 percent this year. The ruble has fallen to a historic low of 64 to the dollar in recent weeks, and interest rates soared to 17 percent. Going into 2015, inflation in Russia stood at 11.4 percent and rising. Standard and Poor's dropped Russian government bonds to junk status Jan. 26. "People will become unemployed and they will need to adapt," Igor Shuvalov, Russia's deputy prime minister, told the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 23.

The Colder War: How the Global Energy Trade Slipped from America's Grasp, by Marin Katusa, a commodity trader and hedge fund operator, is a prime example of the "Putin is a genius" school of thought. Written last year, just before the tumble of oil prices, Katusa predicts the collapse of the U.S. dollar and rise of Moscow to world dominance, based on ever-growing control of oil, gas and uranium resources.

The Colder War gives a useful description of how Putin, a former low-level KGB operative and then head of the Federal Security Service (FSB), its successor secret police agency, has run the government since being appointed prime minister by then-President Boris Yeltsin in 1999. After the implosion of the former Soviet Union in 1991, Russia's economy — and the

living conditions and life expectancy of working people there — nosedived.

A boom in the production and export of oil and gas was the main factor fueling economic growth between 1999 and the 2008 recession, and more slowly since 2010. A rising layer of capitalists — many former KGB agents with ties to Putin — won positions in increasingly lucrative state enterprises or took over newly privatized factories, profiting handsomely. Fortunes were built in blood and corruption.

"Our compass is profit," Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a billionaire who opposed Putin and was imprisoned for 10 years on tax and fraud charges that most of his fellow capitalists were equally guilty of, put it in a 1993 manifesto *Man with a Ruble*. "Our idol is His Financial Majesty — Capital."

Washington should "have seen that Putin has a long-range plan for Mother Russia," Katusa said, "a map cover-



Russian rulers' biggest fear is an explosion by working people, like the Maidan protests in Ukraine that overthrew pro-Moscow Yanukovich regime last year. Above, mass mobilization in Kiev, December 2013, in defense of Ukrainian sovereignty and democratic rights.

ing decades, not the four-year election cycles that dominate the attention of U.S. politicians — and both the vision and resources to make the plan work."

The central Russian oil company, Rosneft, was set up in 1993 from the assets of the former Soviet Ministry of Oil and Gas. It expanded rapidly

after 2004 when it took over the assets of Yukos, Khodorkovsky's oil empire, after he was toppled and imprisoned.

"It's the perfect cornerstone for the grand plan to consolidate power in the hands of Russia's supreme ruler," Katusa says. "Then Putin can play

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Ukraine miners protest government attacks

Continued from front page

zations, which combined demands for higher pay and better conditions with political demands, including an end to Russian domination, helped prepare the way for an independent Ukraine. The Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NPGU) was born out of those actions, as an alternative to the official unions, which were tied to the Soviet government.

The Jan. 28-29 protests included many members of the NPGU, as well as a delegation from the Dnepropetrovsk Territorial Union of the Coal-Mining Industry of Ukraine, affiliated to the official Federation of Trade Unions.

Their central demand was that the government drop plans to close more mines and invest the necessary resources to keep them running. "Of the 150 coal mines in Ukraine 115 are in areas now controlled by separatist forces," Mykhailo Volynets, chair of the Independent Trade Union of Miners, told the *Militant*. "Only 20 of the remaining 35 mines are operating, and the government plans to close those that remain under state ownership," a "market reform" demanded

by the International Monetary Fund as a condition for loans to Kiev.

"There are a lot of our miners who are fighting for independence and freedom in Ukraine," Mykola Volynko, chair of another independent miners' union in Donbass, told the rally, but the government "continues to destroy the industry."

Demonstrators protested government purchases of coal from South Africa and Russia to keep electrical plants operating, while mines in Ukraine are shuttered and miners laid off.

Those who are working are owed up to six months' back pay. Workers from the Lviv Coal Processing Plant said they only received half of their salary for December. "The government does not understand that every home is lit and heated thanks to the hard work of miners," Olga Shkoropad, president of the NPGU local at the Lviv plant, told the rally.

The miners suspended their protest Jan. 29 after Vladimir Demchishin, the minister of energy and coal, promised they will receive half of the back wages in the next few days and the rest within two weeks. A commission to negotiate the miners' demands was set up, including union representatives, government officials and representatives of the private DTEK mines, owned by Ukraine's richest capitalist, Rinat Akhmetov. The miners say they are prepared to return to Kiev if necessary.

Workers bear brunt of war in east

The escalating war with separatist forces in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk is taking a toll on working people on both sides of the battle lines. Twelve residents died Jan. 31 from shelling in Debaltseve, the last government-held town on the road between the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk. The town has been without electricity, water and gas for at least 10 days, and thousands of the remaining residents are being evacuated. Debaltseve is surrounded by separatist forces on three sides, so those fleeing must travel along a nar-

row corridor that's subject to shelling.

At least a dozen civilians were killed Jan. 30 in the city of Donetsk, which is now completely controlled by the separatists. Five people died when rockets hit outside a community center where relief supplies were being distributed and hundreds of people had gathered.

Both the Ukrainian army and separatist forces use Grad missiles, which are notoriously inaccurate.

The separatists began taking over government buildings and industrial workplaces in eastern Ukraine in the wake of the mass popular mobilizations that toppled the pro-Moscow government of Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014. Proclaiming themselves the "People's Republic of Donetsk" and the "People's Republic of Luhansk," the separatists have received heavy weapons and fighters from Moscow.

Kiev has tightened its checkpoints to further restrict movement in and out of separatist-controlled areas. Anyone wishing to cross has to apply for a permit, which takes 10 days to process and is often denied. Many workers living in the separatist areas were regularly crossing to access bank accounts and pensions on the government-controlled side. Others travel into the separatist areas to bring supplies to relatives and friends. This traffic has dropped nearly 90 percent since the new passes went into effect in mid-January.

The separatist leaders recently legalized small, privately run mines known as *kopanki*, as long as the operators pay taxes to the People's Republic of Donetsk. Many of these operations — often no more than a backyard pit — were started in the 1990s by workers trying to get some fuel for their families, but have since grown into big, lucrative and illegal businesses. "These mines are extremely dangerous," Volynets told the *Militant*. "Miners have no safety gear, they are paid off the books so they have no pensions or disability benefits if they are injured."

Lenin's Final Fight Speeches and Writings, 1922-23

"Internationalism must consist not only in the observance of the formal equality of nations but even in an inequality, through which the oppressor nation, the great nation, would compensate for the inequality which obtains in real life. Anyone who does not understand this has not grasped the real proletarian attitude to the national question."
— V.I. Lenin, 1922



New International no. 11 U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

by Jack Barnes

That's what the Socialist Workers Party concluded in the wake of the collapse of regimes and parties across Eastern Europe and in the USSR that claimed to be communist. Contrary to imperialism's hopes, the working class in those countries has not been crushed. \$16

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help make this column a voice of workers' resistance!

This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about the labor resistance that is unfolding today. It seeks to give voice to those engaged in battle and help build solidarity. Its success depends on input from readers. If you are involved in a labor struggle 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

Locked-out British Columbia rail workers keep up fight for safety

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Rail workers locked out since Jan. 5 by Southern Railway of British Columbia are standing strong against company efforts to weaken their fight.

The British Columbia Supreme Court ruled Jan. 23 against broadening the limits on picketing demanded by the company, Bill Magri, president of the 126-member Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 7000, told the *Militant*.

Southern Railway is attempting to operate with replacement workers, but the union won rulings by the British Columbia Labour Relations Board, the latest Jan. 23, disallowing half a dozen from working.

The lockout is having an impact on the company and its customers. The railway has stopped servicing the big grain merchant Parrish & Heimbecker, said Magri. "Catalyst Paper, which ships to the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Los Angeles Times*, is not getting the number of carloads they usually get," he said. "Any paper they can't get out on a box car has to be trucked," which is more expensive.

The issue of fatigue as a result of forced overtime is central to the fight. Rail workers on the picket line in nearby Abbotsford said one worker didn't have a day off in two months last summer.

"Before a day off, workers are notified that they have to come to work," said Magri. "The company doesn't care. They tell workers you can work for the railway or you can have a life."

The unionists are closely monitoring managers doing their work, noting any safety infractions. A large photograph of a manager working without proper safety equipment hangs in the New Westminster picket tent.

—Mike Barker and Ned Dmytryshyn

Turkish metalworkers protest government order to end strike

Some 15,000 metalworkers, members of the United Metal Workers Union at 22 factories in 10 Turkish provinces, went on strike Jan. 29 for better wages, a shorter contract and safer working conditions. They are affiliated with the Progressive Confederation of Trade Unions (DISK).

On the first day of the walkout, however, the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued a cabinet decree postponing the strike for 60 days, citing a threat to "national security." Turkish labor law authorizes such an action, which is in fact a ban, because the dispute must be settled by the government's High Board of Arbitration after 60 days.

The coercive action didn't sit well with metalworkers at two plants in Istanbul. At the Ejot Tezmac plant and the Paksan auto parts factory the workers delayed resuming produc-



Workers dance Jan. 29 in Gebze district of Kocaeli province, southeast of Istanbul, Turkey, on first day of strike by 15,000 members of United Metal Workers Union for shorter contract, wage increase and job safety. Government ordered them back to work the next day.

tion when they went back. "The right to strike is protected by the Turkish Constitution," DISK General Secretary Arzu Cerkezoglu said in a press statement Jan. 30. "We will fight back!"

This is not the first time the government has ended a strike. In June a strike by glass workers was banned under the same law.

Last fall, during contract negotiations between metal bosses and the union, thousands of workers and their

families demonstrated in a number of cities across Turkey.

—Yasemin Aydinoglu

18,000 Kaiser nurses in California win pay raise, increased staffing

SAN FRANCISCO — Nurses at 86 Kaiser Permanente hospitals and clinics voted overwhelmingly at membership meetings across Northern and Central California Jan. 20-23 to approve a three-year contract that includes a 14 percent pay increase and the company's assent to add 540 nursing positions.

During a two-day strike in November, some 18,000 nurses, members of the California Nurses Association, put a spotlight on the high patient-to-nurse ratio at Kaiser clinics and hospitals.

The union demanded that more nurses be hired to address chronic understaffing and to help meet the needs of additional patients signed up under the Affordable Care Act.

The contract includes improved safety standards in treating patients with Ebola and other infectious diseases, another issue raised by nurses during the two-day strike.

"We are relieved, happy and proud of what we accomplished," labor and delivery nurse Edie Stone, who walked the picket lines in South Sacramento, told the *Militant*.

—Betsey Stone



California Nurses Association members at Kaiser Permanente voted overwhelmingly in January to approve new contract including 14 percent wage increase for 18,000 nurses and hiring 540 more to alleviate understaffing. Above, picket at South San Francisco Medical Center Nov. 11.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 16, 1990

"I have a very important message: the ANC has been unbanned!"

The crowd of several thousand anti-apartheid protesters outside the parliament building in Cape Town responded with cheers of "Viva ANC!" They had just learned of South African President F.W. de Klerk's February 2 announcement unbanning the African National Congress and ending a battery of apartheid's repressive laws.

The protest then became a victory march through the city, with demonstrators carrying posters calling for the immediate release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela and an end to apartheid.



February 15, 1965

Clifton DeBerry, 1964 presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, issued a statement Feb. 9 assailing President Johnson for the recent bomb attacks on North Vietnam. The statement declared:

Johnson's reckless, bullying order to bomb areas of North Vietnam makes it clear that the great majority of the American people were cruelly deceived last November when they were led to believe they were voting for a responsible man of peace as opposed to a trigger-happy warmonger.

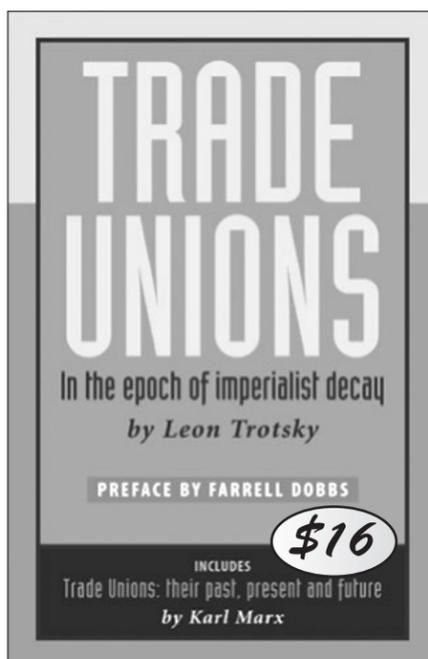
The bombings show that Johnson's peace posture was deliberate demagoguery and that he is as trigger-happy as Goldwater.



February 17, 1940

The hanging of Peter Barnes and James Richards, soldiers for Irish freedom, has been followed by a new heightening of the struggle against the British overlords in Ireland, and that is as it should be.

The British imperialists are trying to smear the movement for Irish freedom as instigated by Hitler. The great Irish revolutionary socialist, Jim Connolly, answered the same kind of slander during the last war, with an immortal slogan: "Neither King Nor Kaiser." We can not think of an equally perfect slogan; but the thought, "Neither Chamberlain nor Hitler," is clearly a part of the real revolutionary movement in Ireland today.



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Keystone pipeline debate

Continued from front page

build strong unions that fight to defend land and labor from devastation by the oil barons, rail bosses and other capitalists, who produce for profit at the expense of workers' life and limb and the environment.

A debate has been raging in Canada and the U.S. since 2008, when TransCanada Corp. proposed construction of the 1,179-mile pipeline extension from Alberta to Kansas, over what position workers should take. The framework of the debate, however, is nationalist and class-collaborationist on both sides of the border. Most arguments, pro and con, start with what "we" in the U.S. or Canada need, not with the interests of the workers and farmers of the world.

There are already 57,000 miles of pipelines in the U.S. that transport crude oil to refineries and shipping ports. TransCanada sends up to 700,000 barrels per day from Alberta to Texas through the original Keystone pipeline, completed in 2010, and a new segment that just opened in January.

The only reason for the hold-up on the Keystone extension is that it crosses the border between Canada and the U.S., thus requiring a permit from the U.S. president before construction can proceed.

A bill approving the pipeline passed the House of Representatives and a version passed the Senate Jan. 29. A reconciled bill should be on President Barack Obama's desk within days. A White House spokesman said Obama will veto it.

World's toilers need electricity

Most environmental groups — including the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Bold Nebraska and Nebraskans for Peace — say the pipeline's potential to contaminate the surrounding land, rivers and the underground Ogallala aquifer, the source of water for much of the Midwest, is so daunting that it can't be allowed to be built.

They warn of catastrophic global warming from increased use of fossil fuels introducing more carbon into the atmosphere, and decry the extraction of tar sand oil, calling it "the dirtiest oil on earth." They counterpose developing so-called green, renewable energy such as wind and solar power. But these methods of energy production are totally inadequate to supply energy for North America, let alone the world. And under capitalism they are toxic and energy-consuming in their production and disposal.

Today, in a world dominated by imperialist oppression and exploitation, more than 1.3 billion people have no ac-

cess to electricity and 2.6 billion have to cook by burning wood or similar fuels, producing smoke that causes millions of deaths each year.

Access to electricity opens up the development of industry and modern agriculture and the growth of the working class. It is essential for sanitation, modern health care and refrigeration, which extend life expectancy.

Electrification is a prerequisite for the development of a working-class movement — the ability to read, think and share experiences with others and to study the history of workers' struggles and the lessons of revolutionary battles, from the 1917 Russian Revolution to the 1959 victory of the Cuban toilers against the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship.

The *Nation*, whose masthead says it has been "instigating progress since 1865," joins virtually all bourgeois liberal and left currents here in opposing the pipeline. Its editors also oppose power-poor countries having access to petroleum. An article titled "What's Wrong with the Electrify Africa Act" last May, published jointly by the *Nation* and *Foreign Policy in Focus*, condemned U.S. policy on energy development in sub-Saharan Africa because it "leaves the door wide open to fossil fuels." In other words, let them live in the dark.

In a *New York Times* op-ed Feb. 2, Martin O'Malley, former Democratic governor of Maryland, says generation of energy by fossil fuels must be limited today to encourage "supporting the development of new energy technologies and fighting climate change."

The Communist Party, Workers World and the Party for Socialism and Liberation all oppose the construction of the pipeline.

Lawsuits challenge law gagging prisoners, press

Continued from front page
magazine *Prison Legal News*, said in a phone interview Jan. 30. The magazine is lead plaintiff in one of the legal challenges.

The law could be used against all publications that cover news from current and former prisoners, including the *Militant*.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a journalist and former Black Panther Party member who has been imprisoned in Pennsylvania for 33 years, is lead plaintiff in the other suit. Abu-Jamal, who was framed up on charges of murdering Daniel Faulkner, a Philadelphia cop, and was held in solitary on death row until 2011, was the first target of the gag act.

"This is a big deal for us," continued Wright. "Ninety to 95 percent of the content of our publication is by



Protest at White House against Keystone XL pipeline, Sept. 3, 2011. Opponents predict environmental catastrophe if pipeline is built, urge cuts in use of fossil fuels even if it lowers energy resources for toilers. Starting point for working people should be how to expand electrification and culture worldwide, while rebuilding labor movement to lead in defense of land and labor.

Some Nebraska farmers also oppose the Keystone XL, but pipeline opponents exaggerate farmers' resistance. TransCanada has obtained easements — voluntary permission, with financial compensation, to use land — from 88 percent of Nebraskan landowners on the pipeline's route. In Montana and South Dakota the company has obtained 100 percent of the easements it needs.

Nationalist claims in U.S., Canada

Many U.S. union leaderships are proponents of the pipeline extension, including officials of the Laborer's International Union of North America. They argue it will be "good for America," creating up to 20,000 jobs and reducing "our" dependence on Mideast oil.

Speaking in opposition to Keystone XL Nov. 14, Obama said the pipeline is about "providing the ability of Canada to pump their oil, send it through our

land, down to the gulf, where it will be sold everywhere else."

On the other side of the border, Canadian nationalism and anti-U.S. positions are common in the labor officialdom. In a pamphlet titled "Stop Sending Canadian Jobs Down the Pipeline!" the Alberta Federation of Labor calls for building oil refineries in Alberta instead of sending crude through the Keystone to Houston refineries or through the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline to be shipped from British Columbia to Chinese refineries.

With or without pipelines, tar sand oil is being extracted in Alberta, and much of it is being sent to the United States, primarily by rail.

In a discussion on the pipeline, safety and the energy needs of workers around the world in a coffee shop in Calgary, Alberta, Feb. 1, Gokhan Kavakli, a

Continued on page 11

prisoners and former prisoners."

The way the law is written, prisoners convicted of a violent crime such as murder and then exonerated could still be sued for writing and speaking about their cases and experiences in prison, he said. Wright himself spent 17 years in prison in Washington state, where he started the magazine.

Filed in federal court Jan. 8 by the American Civil Liberties Union, the suit by *Prison Legal News* seeks an injunction against Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane and Philadelphia County District Attorney Seth Williams barring enforcement of the law. Among the other 10 plaintiffs are *Philadelphia City Paper*, Pennsylvania Prison Society, Solitary Watch, and former prisoners.

The law was passed overwhelmingly by the Pennsylvania legislature after Abu-Jamal delivered a recorded commencement speech Oct. 5 to Goddard College in Vermont. Gov. Tom Corbett signed the bill Oct. 21.

The talk concentrated on world politics. "The present social, political, ecological and global course is, to say the least, unsustainable," Abu-Jamal, who graduated from Goddard, told the students. "Perhaps some of you, new graduates of Goddard, will think up ways to forestall some of the challenges facing the living and generations unborn."

The talk "had nothing to do with the criminal justice system," Wright said.

"I was invited by the staff and the

students and the administrators to talk to my college about what it meant to get an education from Goddard," Abu-Jamal told Amy Goodman in an interview on her program "Democracy Now" Oct. 24. "I did that. And if the Constitution doesn't protect that, then it protects nothing."

Upon hearing that the talk was to take place, Maureen Faulkner — widow of Daniel Faulkner and a leading spokesperson to keep Abu-Jamal behind bars — told Fox News that the government should shut him up.

"I am utterly outraged that such a reprehensible person would be able to revictimize officer Daniel Faulkner's family with this kind of self-promoting behavior," Rep. Mike Vereb, a former cop, wrote in a memo to fellow legislators seeking co-sponsors for the act.

Abu-Jamal, joined by seven other plaintiffs, filed his challenge to the gag act in November. They are represented by the MacArthur Justice Center at Northwestern University, the Abolitionist Law Center and Amistad Law Project. The two lawsuits will be heard together in Harrisburg Feb. 26.

"Freedom of speech is important because sometimes it's offensive or upsetting to people but none are reasons to censor under the First Amendment," Witold Walczak, legal director for the ACLU of Pennsylvania, told the *Militant* Jan. 30. "The Supreme Court made clear that prisoners don't lose freedom of speech rights by virtue of conviction."

FOR FURTHER READING

In *New International* no. 13

Our Politics Start with the World

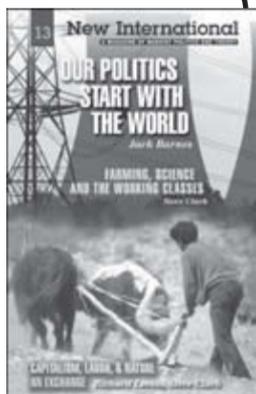
by Jack Barnes

The huge economic and cultural inequalities between imperialist and semicolonial countries, and among classes within almost every country, are produced and accentuated by the workings of capitalism. For vanguard workers to build parties able to lead a successful revolutionary struggle for power in our own countries, our activity must be guided by a strategy to close this gap. \$14

In *New International* no. 14

The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor

\$14



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Membership drop poses need to rebuild unions

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The rate of union membership in the U.S. declined last year, as has been the case since the early 1980s, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Jan. 23.

Only 11.1 percent of workers were in unions in 2014, down from 11.3 percent the previous year. The number of workers in union jobs in the private and public sectors was about even — 7.4 million and 7.2 million respectively. But the percentage of workers in unions in the private sector was only 6.6 percent. For public workers it was 35.7 percent.

While the actual number of union members modestly increased, so many more have been hired into non-union jobs that the overall percentage has fallen. Union membership increased by about 41,000 in the private sector, but employment there rose by almost 2.6 million workers.

Among the private industries adding union jobs in 2014 are construction, which is beginning to rebound, and so-called leisure and hospitality, where many workers receive low wages and part-time hours.

One of the biggest declines in union membership was in Michigan, once a center of auto production, dropping by nearly 2 percent to 14.5 percent in 2014. New York has the highest union membership rate, at 24.6 percent, while North Carolina has the lowest at 1.9 percent.

According to the Labor Department, union members working a full-time job had a median weekly wage of \$970, while those not in unions got \$763.

The number of public workers declined by nearly a quarter of a million as a result of cutbacks by federal and state governments. In some states public-sector union membership has also been falling because of anti-labor laws passed in recent years.

Membership in the Wisconsin State Employees' Union has dropped 60 percent and its budget has plunged by two-thirds since the passage of a 2011 state law severely restricting collective bargaining rights of public-sector

unions.

Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who won passage of that law, has decided there's no need to push for a state right-to-work law, given the already weakened condition of the unions. In addition to the fall in the number of organized government workers, private-sector union membership in Wisconsin is below 7 percent.

Instead of responding through a political course of winning working-class solidarity to reverse this situation, public union officials increasingly function as a lobbying appendage of the Democratic Party, one of the two political instruments of the employing class.

Public employees confront the capitalists only indirectly. Their employers — local, state or federal agencies — are not capitalists, but government bodies that represent the class interests of the bosses.

Privately employed workers, on the other hand, directly confront a boss and can use their collective power on the shop floor and on the picket line to answer employer attacks, including going on strike and denying profits to the wealthy owners. But the strength of industrial unions has also been sapped over many decades by the class-collaborationist course of the officialdom of subordinating labor's interests to the Democratic Party.

What's needed is to rebuild the union movement in the mines, mills, factories and elsewhere as a fighting tool for workers to answer the bosses' attacks, championing the struggles of working people at home and abroad.

Chicago socialist: 'Cuba shows how to fight'



Militant/Linda Avers

CHICAGO — “The propertied rulers here are using the election to debate how they can close the city's budget deficit on the backs of working people,” Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, told Mary Gerrity (above, right) on her doorstep while he was campaigning in the North Side Chicago neighborhood of Jefferson Park Jan. 31. “I am a retired bus driver with the CTA [Chicago Transit Authority],” Gerrity said, agreeing. “The city government just eliminated medical coverage for retirees like myself.”

“Balancing the capitalists' state budget is their problem — it is their budget, not ours,” Fein said. “I'll use the mayor's office to fight all cuts to social programs that benefit working people and to back the fight for a \$15 an hour minimum wage and full-time work.”

The previous weekend Fein was in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, attending the Wisconsin Farmers Union state convention, discussing what farmers face as prices for their milk and grain plummet and costs for seed, fertilizer and farm equipment continue to rise. “It is impossible to make capitalism work for workers and farmers,” Fein told Ed Gorell, a farmer from Eleva, Wisconsin, as he showed him an article in the *Militant* on the challenges facing farmers. “My party, the Socialist Workers Party, is a revolutionary party. Capitalism must be overturned and replaced by a government of workers and farmers.”

“I've seen the paper before. I got it at a farmers' event,” Gorell said.

“We can look to the Cuban Revolution for inspiration and for an example of how to fight,” Fein said. “My kind of socialists are the leaders of the Cuban Communist Party.”

Gorell signed up to get an introductory subscription to the *Militant* to follow the campaign.

— ANNE CARROLL

Economic crisis in Russia pierces Putin myth

Continued from page 4

energy-needy countries against one another and squeeze Europeans to accept long-term, high-price contracts as the only way to secure reliable supplies.”

Far from being the grand strategist Katusa describes, Putin has moved pragmatically from one project to another, reacting to world pressures and overreliant on Moscow's supplies of oil and gas.

After pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich was toppled in Ukraine by popular mobilizations in February 2014, Russian forces occupied the Crimean Peninsula, and organized its annexation to Russia in a sham referendum. Moscow aided and sent troops to reinforce separatist paramilitary forces in Ukraine's eastern provinces.

The occupation of Crimea has been costly for Moscow, which has pledged \$12 billion in development funds for the next five years. There is no land border between Russia and Crimea, so most goods now must enter by ferry. Inflation has soared to 42 percent.

Following Moscow's invasion of Crimea, Washington and the European Union imposed economic sanctions against a number of Russian officials, banks and other companies, and has expanded them when the separatist war in the east has heated up.

One casualty of the imperialist sanctions was the South Stream pipe-

line, which was intended to carry natural gas from Russia to Bulgaria via the Black Sea, bypassing Ukraine. This was an important project for Moscow, which exports the big majority of its natural gas by pipeline to countries throughout Europe. In June the Bulgarian government put the project on hold, under pressure from U.S. and EU officials, who said proceeding could violate the sanctions and EU regulations. Putin announced the pipeline plan was dead Dec. 1.

Gazprom, the main Russian gas company, now says it's considering a new pipeline to Turkey, but there's no concrete plan. Meanwhile, a new terminal to receive liquefied natural gas is scheduled to open in Poland later this year, which can cut across Gazprom's domination of natural gas sales in eastern Europe.

The worldwide decline in production and trade has translated into less demand for oil. At the same time there has been a boom in production from hydraulic fracking in the United States and tar sands in Canada. This is putting a squeeze on every oil-dependent economy, and Russia is particularly hard-hit.

The price drop and sanctions also put on hold plans to expand drilling in the Arctic Ocean, in collaboration with Exxon Mobil and other oil companies. Russia claims large oil reserves there, but it would take major

capital investment to develop them.

Putin's pragmatic response to developments in Ukraine and elsewhere have made Russia's ruling oligarchs, to whom he is ultimately responsible, increasingly nervous.

The rulers biggest fear is an explosion by working people across Russia, like the Maidan in Ukraine that overthrew the Yanukovich regime last year. As the economic situation deteriorates, “the number of industrial protests is growing,” Boris Kravchenko, president of the Confederation of Labor of Russia, wrote in September.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Europe: Economic and Political Crisis and the Fight Against Jew-Hatred. Speaker: Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 13, 7 p.m. 4804 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Family Farmers in Midwest Face Tough Times — Worker-Farmer Alliance Needed to Resist Effects of Capitalist Crisis. Speakers: Randy Jasper, grain farmer from Muscoda, Wisc.; Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago. Sun., Feb. 8. Brunch, 1 p.m.; program, 2 p.m. Donation: \$5 brunch, \$5 program.

Women's Right to Choose Abortion Under Attack — Why Working People Need to Protest Government Offensive. Fri., Feb. 13, 8 p.m. Both events at 2018 S. Aberdeen St. Tel.: (312) 455-0111.

—CALENDAR—

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Guest Gallery Exhibition: “I Will Die the Way I've Lived.” Paintings by Antonio Guerrero for the 16th anniversary of the imprisonment of the Cuban Five. Jan. 14 – Feb. 22. Columbia City Gallery, 4864 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 760-9483.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Celebrate the Return of the Cuban 5 and New Positive Steps Towards U.S.-Cuba Relations. Program includes slide show of recent photos of the Five and their families in Cuba by Bill Hackwell, poetry and music. Fri., Feb. 6, 7 p.m. Festival Center, 1640 Columbia Rd., NW. Co-sponsored by International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5 and Institute for Policy Studies. For more information: (202) 787-5229 or (510) 219-0092.

Seattle program: 'Paintings show spirit of Cuban Five'

BY JOHN NAUBERT

SEATTLE — Some 70 people attended a program on the case of the Cuban Five at the Columbia City Gallery here Jan. 28. The program was held in conjunction with an exhibit of "I Will Die the Way I've Lived," 15 watercolors by Cuban Five member Antonio Guerrero. The Cuban Five are Cuban revolutionaries who were framed up and imprisoned in U.S. jails for working to expose plans by Cuban-American paramilitary groups based in southern Florida to attack Cuba and supporters of the revolution in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The last three were released Dec. 17 and returned to Cuba in an agreement between Washington and Havana to reopen diplomatic relations.

Jane Cutter spoke for the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, explaining the most important factor in winning their freedom was the integrity with which the Five conducted themselves. She urged people to pick up copies of the Pathfinder Press book *I Will Die the Way I Lived*, which was used as the catalog for the exhibit.

"These paintings were created by Guerrero in prison and show the unbroken character of the Five, and their sense of humor," said John Martinez, co-chair of the Human and Civil Rights Committee of American Federation of Teachers Local 1789 at Seattle Community College. "Exhibits like this have been part of the defense effort worldwide."

A print of the painting "The Jury's Verdict" also was on display, taken from Guerrero's second set of watercolors, "Absolved by Solidarity," which was completed to mark the 16th year of their incarceration.

"In fact, this is how the imprisonment of the Cuban Five ended. They were absolved by solidarity — by the international jury of millions," Mary Martin of the Socialist Workers Party said to applause. "Now our task is to demand the end of the U.S. embargo against Cuba."

"I didn't know much about the Five until recently when I began reading the *Militant*. I was touched profoundly by the depth of the Cuban Five's struggle. I was especially touched by 'The Welcome.' Antonio Guerrero enters his new 'home' and all of his possessions in the world are a bed covering and a roll of toilet paper," Johnnie Dwire, a grocery store worker and a student at Seattle Central,

told the *Militant*.

"It was sobering to think of how this American 'democracy' handles any sort of political opposition to the policies of imperialism, and how anybody's life can suddenly be upended on no legal ground whatsoever," Dwire said. "I've already recommended the exhibit to several friends."

The exhibit runs through Feb. 22 at the Columbia City Gallery. In March it will be shown at the offices of the Musicians' Association of Seattle, Local 76-493 of the American Federation of Musicians.



Militant/Clay Dennison

Program at Columbia City Gallery Jan. 28 in Seattle in conjunction with exhibit of "I Will Die the Way I've Lived," 15 watercolors by Antonio Guerrero, celebrated freedom of Cuban Five.

Castro: End U.S. embargo, normalize Cuba relations

Continued from front page

where "chaos reigns in the distribution of financial resources and social production."

He described Cuba's key internationalist contribution in Angola, sending 425,000 volunteers over 16 years. They helped drive U.S.-backed South African forces out of Angola in 1988, opening the way to the overthrow of the white-supremacist apartheid system.

Castro stressed the socialist character of the Cuban Revolution, recalling in the letter that he was "already influenced by Marx" when he entered the university.

Cuba survived "the Special Period in peace time, which has already lasted for more than 20 years, without raising the white flag, something we have never done, and will never do," Castro said, referring to the hardships Cuba has endured since the dissolution of the Soviet Union at the opening of the 1990s abruptly ended the big majority of Cuba's foreign trade.

"I do not trust the policy of the United States," Castro said, adding he backed the Cuban government's stance in the negotiations. "This does not in any way signify a rejection of a peaceful solution to conflicts or threats of war."

'Defense of our national sovereignty'

"Cuba and the United States must learn the art of civilized coexistence," Raúl Castro said two days later in his address to the Third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Costa Rica, thanking the governments and people of the member countries for support that helped lead the Obama administration to propose talks with Cuba. "It must not be supposed that, in order to achieve this, Cuba would renounce its ideals

of independence and social justice, or abandon a single one of our principles, nor cede a millimeter in the defense of our national sovereignty."

"Could diplomatic relations be restored without resuming the financial services of the Cuban Interests Section and its Consular Office in Washington, denied as a consequence of the financial blockade?" he said, ticking off steps Washington must take before further progress can be made. "How can diplomatic relations be restored without removing Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism? What will be the future conduct of U.S. diplomats in Havana in regards to observing the diplomatic and consular norms?"

"The reestablishment of diplomatic relations is the beginning of a process which can progress toward normalization of bilateral relations," Castro said, "but this will not be possible as long as the blockade exists, or as long as the territory illegally occupied by the Guantánamo naval base is not returned, or radio and television broadcasts which violate international norms continue, or just compensation is not provided our people for the human and economic damage they have suffered."

Cuban leaders welcome the discussions on reestablishing diplomatic relations. If pressure can be mobilized to end Washington's embargo, it could alleviate conditions in Cuba. But, Castro said, the shift in tactics doesn't mean Washington has changed its state policy against the Cuban Revolution.

'U.S. changing methods, not policy'

"No one should dream that the new policy announced means acceptance of the existence of a socialist revolution 90 miles from Florida," he said. "U.S. government spokespeople have been very clear in specifying that they are now changing their methods but not their policy objectives, and insist on continuing to intervene in our internal affairs, which we are not going to accept."

"Our U.S. counterparts should not plan on developing relations with Cuban society as if there were no sovereign government," he continued to applause.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson, who represented Washington in the talks in Havana, and other U.S. officials speak of establishing contact with what they call "civil society" in Cuba. After the talks, she met with representatives of the so-called dissident movement. This is one way they attempt

to intervene in class relations in Cuba, with the aim of strengthening pro-capitalist layers and generating support for a "democratic" counterrevolution against worker-farmer rule in Cuba.

"They want so-called civil society to be present at the Summit of the Americas in Panama," Raúl Castro told CELAC, referring to the gathering that will be sponsored by the Organization of American States in April. "Of course Cuban civil society will attend."

"I hope to be able to see in Panama the popular movements and non-governmental organizations which advocate for nuclear disarmament, for the environment, against neoliberalism, the Occupy Wall Street and the *indignados* [indignant ones] of this region," Castro said, "students, farmers, trade unions, communities of original peoples, organizations which oppose the contamination caused by fracking, those defending the rights of immigrants and denouncing torture and extrajudicial executions, police brutality, racist practices, those who demand equal pay for women for equal work."

"We know that ending the blockade will be a long, difficult process, which will require the support, the mobilization and resolute action of all persons of good will in the United States and the world," Castro concluded.

The Cuban president also described the contradiction between the economic potential of Latin America and the Caribbean and the exploitation and oppression the toilers face under crisis-racked capitalism.

"Together, we are the third-largest economy in the world," he said. "But the Latin American and Caribbean region remains the most unequal on the planet. On the average, 20 percent of households with the lowest incomes receive 5 percent of total income."

Castro extended solidarity to anti-imperialist struggles throughout the region and the world, condemning "the unacceptable and unjustified unilateral sanctions against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela."

"We join the Argentine Republic in its claim to the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas," he said, referring to the colonies of the United Kingdom off the coast of Argentina.

"The Community will be incomplete as long as Puerto Rico is absent. Its colonial situation is unacceptable," Castro said.



In *New International* no. 10
'Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution'
 by Mary-Alice Waters

"The government of Cuba continues to be a revolutionary government of the toilers. In fact, the communist leadership in Cuba continues to head the only government in the world that consciously uses state power to defend, respond to, and promote the interests of the working class. It is the only state power that strives to organize working people to advance the fight against imperialism and for socialism. And it is

the only one open to helping those abroad who are struggling arms in hand to do the same thing." — Mary-Alice Waters

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‘Our fight for justice was a fight to defend Cuba’

Excerpt from new book ‘Absolved by Solidarity’

On Dec. 17, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero were freed, joining René González and Fernando González in Cuba — ending 16 years of imprisonment of the Cuban Five on frame-up charges in the U.S.

Below is a section from *Absolved by Solidarity: 16 Watercolors for 16 Years of Unjust Imprisonment of the Cuban Five*, just published by Pathfinder Press. The book contains 16 new paintings by Guerrero that focus on the trial and conviction of the Five on fabricated charges of “conspiracy” for their activities in defense of Cuba on U.S. soil.

The book, which also includes a statement by the Five, letters and documents, highlights the dignity, courage and discipline of the Five that was key to winning their freedom and showing the world what it means to be a revolutionary and a communist.



‘The longest letter I will ever write’

RENÉ GONZÁLEZ

In September 2012 René González wrote to his wife, Olga Salanueva, recalling how and why, a dozen years earlier, he had begun composing “the longest letter I will ever write.” That November 2000 letter from René to Olga is depicted in Antonio Guerrero’s painting *THE DIARY* (above right).

At the time González wrote the two letters below, he had completed his prison sentence of thirteen years. Under court order, however, he was still in the United States serving a three-year term of “supervised release.” As throughout González’s years in prison, Washington continued to deny Salanueva a visa to enter the US to see her husband. The letters were posted on the website of Cuba’s Foreign Ministry.

First letter

Fourteen years have passed since that brutal September 12, 1998. By midmorning that day, after a series of lightning arrests, we were all being processed at Miami’s Federal Detention Center. We were beginning to adjust to all the implications of the new reality that confronted us so abruptly — what we would have to forego, the challenges and future personal sacrifices. But even in our most pessimistic predictions, we never imagined that fourteen years later

we would still be awaiting justice. We had much to learn about the capacity for cruelty of some societies and their guardians.

When you’re in solitary confinement, the first month lasts a century. The second month lasts a year. The third feels like the month it really is, and each subsequent month seems like two weeks. Time is compressed by monotony, by learning to survive, by discovering and mastering ways to outwit the carefully thought-out restrictions designed to make you despair and feel helpless. Fleeting moments of camaraderie are enjoyed to the fullest. Acts of complicity sustain you, and at times are even funny.

Then comes the battle. In the hands of judges and prosecutors, laws become an amorphous mass. Evidence becomes slippery, manipulated at the prosecutors’ whim. Time with your lawyers is scarce and precious. Every inch of a pencil is treasured. Even so we prepare, discuss, and study the case. We get ready for a struggle we know is unequal but to which we’ll bring the truth the prosecution is trying to conjure away. In the thick of battle, time flies. Suddenly we’ve gone through two years, and we’re on the eve of the trial.

Then comes the blackmail: if you agree to plead guilty and give up your right to a trial, your wife can avoid deportation.

Olguita was detained by immigration authorities on August 16, 2000. After three months in prison she was deported to Cuba on November 21, just a week before the trial began. That same day I started to write her a letter that turned into a diary of the trial:

My love,

Today I’m beginning the longest letter I have written or will ever write in my life. I dedicate it to you on this day when I am overwhelmed by so many conflicting feelings. On one hand, the relief of knowing that at last you’ve been released from prison, that you find yourself among so many people who love and support you unconditionally, that you’re no longer an instrument in this crude blackmail they fruitlessly tried to use against me.

On the other hand, the uncertainty of not knowing when I’ll see you again, the emptiness that you always filled on visiting days or during court hearings, and knowing how much you wanted to be here at my side during the entire trial to give me your support and encouragement. ...

No matter what, be happy. Don’t allow yourself a pessimistic thought or an unpleasant memory. Don’t let yourself be marked by some vile act that upset you. Just remember that you defeated all that, both inside and outside prison, through the strength of your character, your moral values, and your principles. Lean on those values and principles to be happy and keep up the faith.

Don’t deny yourself a single moment of joy, a smile, a game with the girls, a family gathering, an outing to have some fun, a vacation you can enjoy, a camping trip, a movie, an activity at work, or any of those moments that make life enjoyable and allow us to socialize. Any time the shadow of my situation stands in the way of one of those moments, shoo it away! It won’t



“The Diary,” one of 16 watercolors by Antonio Guerrero in *Absolved by Solidarity*. New book from Pathfinder Press helps explain Cuban Revolution and inspiring fighters it has produced.

be my figure casting that shadow.

Fourteen years have passed since that brutal September 12, 1998. But the spirit of the Five continues and will continue to be what the words in that letter expressed.

Second letter

Some of us had never met each other at the time we were arrested. Our first contact was purely visual, through a small window in the cell door, surrounded by the silence imposed by walls, steel doors, and, yes, understandable mistrust. Only the mandatory court appearances broke up those initial days of self-reflection when each of the Five, alone with his thoughts, faced a vital personal decision. Once we were together, waiting for that first appearance before a judge that was turned into a circus, our thoughts turned to *History Will Absolve Me*.

I think it was from that moment on, as if by tacit agreement, that the words of each one of us came to represent the viewpoint of all. Because of that, I know what all of us have felt during these years of fighting for freedom. And I know my four brothers in arms can add much more in this regard.

It was always clear to us that the fight for justice in our case was a fight in defense of Cuba, a fight in one more trench. The trial was simply an extension of the confrontation between those who claim the prerogative to attack Cuba and those of us who believe in Cuba’s right to defend itself — this time in the arena of the courts. The US prosecutors regarded both terrorism and military aggression against Cuba to be among their legitimate prerogatives. That’s what the trial showed. We thought it was important to demonstrate they would have to con-

front an entire people who think otherwise.

They dealt with us harshly, as yet another way to punish Cuba’s resistance. We were determined to make clear to them that the roots of this resistance go far beyond the Five. The spite they’ve shown us indicates we succeeded.

Obviously, on a personal level we share with anyone deprived of their freedom the same worries, the same desire to return home, to rejoin our people and rebuild our lives. No less important, however, is the struggle within ourselves to prevent our persecutors from planting seeds of hate or resentment. Under these conditions, the fight for our own happiness and that of our loved ones has been an important part of our battle, and the degree to which we achieve it will be a good measure of victory.

While to those who have principles it may seem deranged, the prosecutors still hope to surmount the obstacle that Gerardo’s dignity represents to their efforts to indict Cuba. For us, the struggle to free the Five remains first and foremost a struggle for the defense of our country.

After fourteen years of despicable punishment, the possibility we could get justice is ruled out. This is a reality I believe we have accepted with the necessary decorum. Nonetheless, they still want to put Cuba on trial through us.

The day reason prevails at last and, by whatever means, our absurd punishment comes to an end, the US government, even without saying so, will be conceding its biggest defeat: they could not take from us the moral high ground to judge Cuba.

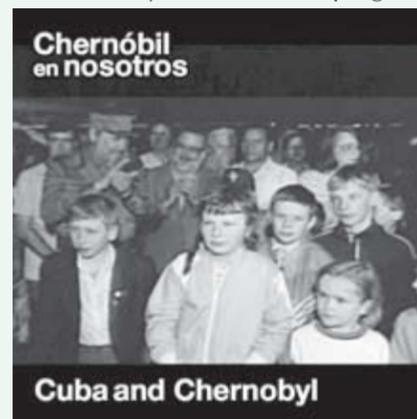
Knowing that justice is impossible, our release from prison will be one more vindication of Cuba.

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Video ‘Cuba and Chernobyl’ is now available

Cuba and Chernobyl (Chernóbil en nosotros), a 2006 Cuban TV documentary, tells the story of Cuba’s revolutionary internationalist program that provided medical care to more than 25,000 victims, the majority of them children, following the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine. A team of volunteers organized by the *Militant* translated the Spanish-language documentary and prepared English subtitles. It can be viewed on the *Militant* website — www.themilitant.com — or ordered on DVD for \$7 from the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, or email: themilitant@mac.com.



1978 disasters show danger from rail bosses' drive for profit

Below is an excerpt from *American Railroads, The Case for Nationalization*, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February*. It tells the story of how U.S. railroads, operated to boost the profits of their owners, endanger the safety of workers and surrounding communities alike. It recounts the struggles by rail workers against the continuing offensive by the bosses to cut crew size, intensify the hours and pace of work, and allow tracks and equipment to deteriorate. Copyright © 1980 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY DICK ROBERTS

In Waverly, Tennessee, on February 24, 1978, a tank car filled with liquefied propane exploded in a 500-foot ball of flame. Sixteen persons were killed and forty-five injured — the worst accident in railroad history attributable to the carrying of hazardous cargo.

Two days later, in Youngstown, Florida, a train derailment ruptured a tank car filled with chlorine gas. Eight people were killed and 114 injured.

Only a month earlier, in Pensacola, Florida, a derailment caused the release of deadly anhydrous ammonia gas, killing two people and injuring forty-six.

These three disasters propelled into national publicity — at least momentarily — the growing dangers surrounding the rail shipment of hazardous cargo.



Above, 1978 explosion of propane tank car in Waverly, Tennessee, drew attention to unsafe conditions on U.S. railroads, a result of bosses' profit drive. At right, placard marks site today.

This issue underlines the deteriorating and unsafe conditions of the railroads. It is an issue that draws public attention to the dangerous conditions facing railroad workers. And it is an issue of vital importance to the millions of people who live near railroad tracks.

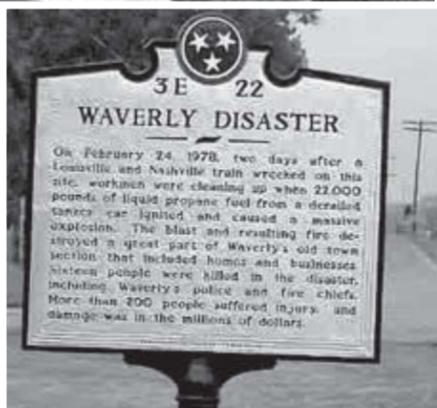
Track-caused accidents have sharply increased in recent years. According to the Federal Railroad Administration there were 4,260 track-caused accidents in 1976 compared to 1,428 in 1966.

In 1976, 500 of the derailments involved shipments of hazardous substances. On top of this, the railroads carry most radioactive waste. About 90 percent of spent nuclear fuel is shipped by train. All high-level waste from nuclear weapons production is shipped by rail. And for "security" reasons the railroads themselves are often not told when government shipments contain nuclear waste.

The three rail disasters in early 1978 forced various Washington agencies connected with the railroads to come up with explanations.

On March 15 the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) issued a report tending to blame the railroad companies. It noted that there were adequate safety laws on the books. They just weren't being followed. "It sometimes costs the railroads less to pay a penalty when a violation has been detected or risk having to pay a penalty, than to stop service," the OTA held.

An extensive hearing was held before the National Transportation Safety



Board, April 4-6, 1978. Seldom has the buck been passed more times in three days — even in Washington.

Richard Little, vice-president of the Union Pacific, declared — presumably with a straight face: "There does not appear to be any significant relationship between the financial expenditures on maintenance level of railroad track and the number of really serious derailments, including those involving hazardous materials."

Like many executives before him, Little blamed the workers: "The best way to prevent hazardous material incidents is to adequately train railroad employees," he said.

But the main argument of the railroad is that they don't actually own the tank cars. "The Union Pacific owns only a very small number of its own cars," Little stated.

This brought to the stand Jack Kruizenga, president of the Union Tank Car Company of Chicago. Kruizenga came under particular fire because the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) had passed laws in 1969 ordering safety improvements on tank cars carrying hazardous materials.

These tank cars were supposed to be retrofitted with safer couplers and with

head shields to protect the tanks from flying parts of the couplers should these be shattered in a derailment. The FRA had given the companies until 1982 to retrofit the cars. As of the April 1978 hearing, a decade after the law was passed, 25 out of the 23,000 jumbo tank cars that were supposed to be changed actually had the safety improvements. ...

Union representatives, for the most part, echoed the complaints of the government agencies: there is not enough inspection.

"Every year [our organization] pleads, begs in an effort to have an adequate number of inspectors hired by FRA," said one union official.

These union officials do not appear to recognize the irony of their position. The hearing at which they were pleading is precisely the kind of cover the capitalist government needs for its refusal to interfere with the profits-before-safety ways of the railroad companies.

Over the past century there has been voluminous material printed by the United States government exposing the profit-gouging policies of the railroads. What there haven't been are any moves by the government *against* the profit interests of the railroads. ...

One rail union official who testified raised a question that is worth further consideration. Ed McCullough, vice-president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, was explaining how the railroad companies ignore safety norms for locomotives.

He pointed out that there is nothing an engineer can do even when so important an instrument as the speedometer isn't working. There are speed limits depending on the condition of the track and the sharpness of the curves. Following these is obviously a crucial safety question.

But "we operate strictly on the carriers' operating rules," said McCullough. "Engineers can be fired on the spot for not taking out locomotives which they believe to be defective? ..."

Working people throughout the country would support the rail workers if the unions got out the facts. Who is going to oppose the right of an engineer not to take out a defective locomotive? Workers everywhere face the same kind of speedup drive and unsafe working conditions.

February BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Oppose gag law on prisoners, press!

All working people have a stake in the effort to overturn Pennsylvania's "Silencing Act." This gag law, officially dubbed the "Revictimization Relief Act," is a broadside attack on the First Amendment rights of anyone ever convicted of a crime and anyone or any media that publicizes their comments.

It took less than three weeks for the bill to be introduced, overwhelmingly adopted and signed by the governor — a contemptuous bipartisan blow against political rights for working people and the Bill of Rights.

The gag law — which hasn't received much publicity — means any prisoner or former prisoner convicted of a violent crime, even someone whose conviction has been overturned, can be sued by any "victim," or their family members, or by a government official for any statement they claim causes "a temporary or permanent state of mental anguish." Whether you are asserting your innocence, protesting prison conditions or commenting on world politics, you are muzzled.

The lawsuit filed by *Prison Legal News* and others challenging the unconstitutional restriction of the rights of the press also deserves broad support.

The pretext for the law was a recorded commencement speech to Goddard College by Mumia Abu-Jamal, a journalist framed up and put on death row on charges of killing cop Daniel Faulkner. The fight to stop his execution — finally successful in 2011 — was part of the struggle to abolish the death penalty.

As incarceration rates soared across the country, struggles by prisoners and their family members against solitary confinement, false convictions, abusive treatment and dehumanizing conditions in prison grew. The number of exonerations of victims of cop frame-ups is more than 1,500 over the past 15 years. Restrictions like the Pennsylvania law could shut these former prisoners up.

These fights get an increasing hearing from and overlap with struggles by workers against the effects of the world capitalist crisis, for higher wages, safer working conditions and to build and defend unions.

If allowed to stand, Pennsylvania's Silencing Act would give the rulers a precedent for further assaults on political space for workers to discuss and act. And to target papers like *Prison Legal News* and the *Militant* that champion them.

Nat'l oil workers strike demands job safety

Continued from front page

pipelines and petrochemical plants. The union-organized refineries produce 64 percent of oil in the U.S. The refineries not on strike are operating under a day-to-day contract extension. All but one of the struck refineries are being operated by management and in some cases strikebreaking contractors.

Safety is a central issue in the dispute.

"The company wants to take away union safety representatives and replace them with people of their choice," pipefitter Jimmy Bear told the *Militant* at the picket in front of Marathon's Texas City refinery Feb. 1. Workers picketing at LyondellBasell in Houston said the company wants to increase their already costly health insurance. Others pointed out that the company wants to substantially reduce overtime pay when they work their off days.

Hundreds came to the union headquarters in Texas City the morning the strike started to sign up for picket duty. Days before the walkout, hundreds of oil workers joined protests in front of refineries.

"We're trying to keep our wages up," Joshua Lege, who works at the LyondellBasell refinery in Houston, told the *Militant*. He was helping lead chants at the Jan. 28 rally in front of the plant. "We're trying to hold the line. The cost of everything is going up. With the loss of benefits and pensions, who can afford to retire?"

"This work stoppage is about onerous overtime; unsafe staffing levels; dangerous conditions the industry continues to ignore; the daily occurrences of fires, emissions, leaks and explosions that threaten local communities," said Steelworkers International Vice President Gary Beevers, head of the union's Oil Bargaining council, in a Feb. 1 statement.

The strike comes as oil prices have plunged and layoffs have risen. Baker-Hughes, an oil field service company, announced it was laying off 7,000 workers.

Even with the fall in oil prices, Royal Dutch Shell, the lead employer in talks with the union, announced 2014 profits of \$14.87 billion Jan. 30.



California: Oil refinery workers rally for right to shut unsafe operations

BY JOEL BRITTON

MARTINEZ, Calif. — Members of United Steelworkers Local 5 are carrying out a "safe and orderly shutdown" of Tesoro's Golden Eagle refinery here, one of the initial strike targets under the United Steelworkers National Oil Bargaining Program.

As the shutdown winds down, members of the union will report for picketing assignments.

Several dozen oil refinery workers rallied with community organizations Jan. 28 at City Hall in nearby Richmond as the Jan. 31 contract expiration drew near. Handmade signs called for strengthening the right of

workers to shut down unsafe operations. "We're the ones out there working," Ron Stevens, a Chevron refinery worker, told the *Militant*. "We're the ones who know what's going on in the plant."

The rally took place right before a well-attended U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board hearing to discuss the board's report on the August 2012 fire at the Chevron refinery.

Nineteen operators, maintenance workers and management personnel barely escaped death or serious injury when a massive hydrocarbon vapor cloud ignited. Some 15,000 residents sought medical treatment after smoke drifted for miles over working-class areas.

Chevron management, the report concludes, repeatedly postponed inspection and replacement of the section of piping that ruptured, spewing 640-degree Fahrenheit gas into the atmosphere. The piping had been in service since 1976 and was severely deteriorated. When the leak was discovered refinery workers urged that the unit be shut down, but were overruled by management, the Chemical Safety Board found.

Chevron claims that its "Stop Work Authority" establishes that any individual can take the responsibility and authority to stop work "when an unsafe condition or act could result in an undesirable event." But the report says that "fear of reprisal for stopping the job" intimidates workers from doing so.

"When our members attempt to exercise their 'Stop Work Authority' they are second-guessed and pressured not to use it," Local 5 Secretary-Treasurer Jim Payne said at the hearing.

"Neither laws, nor regulatory agencies, nor other governmental bodies will stop these deaths and injuries. None of them will stand against the financial and political might of the oil giants," retired Local 5 member Jerry Freiwirth said. "The only real guarantor of safety is the workers ourselves and our unions."

The next day 75 workers rallied in front of the Shell refinery demanding better health care, wages and safety protections in the contract. A big local issue is the increase of forced overtime and unpaid standby time.

"Shell doesn't pay us one penny for the time we're on standby. And since they don't adequately staff the operating units, the forced overtime gets worse and worse," Laura Sinclair, an operator in Shell's Cat Cracker unit, told the *Militant*. "If they had to pay us for our standby time, maybe that would force the company to hire more operators."

'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.

Keystone debate

Continued from page 6

flooring installer, told the *Militant* he agreed workers need to start with the world. "We have to think about how to develop the resources and who controls them," he said. "How many billions in aid and charity have been spent on Africa in the last 30 years? It's the system. Africans could have built a new Africa by now with the money."

"I know unions make a difference. Look at the rail workers in British Columbia," Atakan Beyi, a heating and refrigeration worker and unionist, said in the same discussion. (See article on page 5.) "It's the big companies that are the problem on health and safety and the environment. They don't care about us."

The only road to ensure safe conditions in the production and transportation of energy is building strong unions capable of wresting control over working conditions out of the hands of the bosses; insisting on the protection of those who live in communities near the extraction, processing and transport of all fuels; and preventing the profit-driven capitalists from contaminating the land, air and water.

The successful fight by rail unionists against attempts by BNSF Railway to institute one-person "crews" points the way forward. Their victory shows the potential for labor to take the moral high ground and defeat measures that endanger workers, communities and the environment.

Pipeline transport safer than rail

Even under capitalism, which puts profits over protection of both human life and nature, pipeline transport of crude is safer than rail. According to the Association of American Railroads, the rate of hazardous-material spills is 2.7 times higher by rail transport than pipeline.

Fracking and other new technologies have opened the door for energy bosses to boost oil production past the capacities of existing pipelines. The rail bosses have jumped in, making trains longer, postponing shipments of farmers' grain to prioritize crude oil trains and pushing to cut the crew to one person.

"On my run from Lincoln, Nebraska, to Ottumwa, Iowa, and back, I meet six or more oil trains each leg of the trip," railroad engineer Jack Krueger, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, told the *Militant*.

Oil train spills are increasing, the worst being the 2013 derailment in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, that killed 47 people. More oil was spilled in 2013 than in the previous 37 years.

Rail bosses fiercely resisted government regulations pressing them to replace their large stocks of rupture-prone tank cars with new reinforced models. Rail workers' unions have pushed for rapid replacement, but the boss-friendly Department of Transportation has given the companies a free pass until 2017.

Working class and safety

With pipeline transport as with rail, technology exists to operate more safely. Robots called "smart pigs" can detect corrosion. Control valves can be installed that automatically shut off the flow if a drop in pressure indicates a leak. The extent to which safety measures are used, however, is decided by the strength of the union movement and pressure from the working class more broadly.

The question for working people around energy extraction and production is not whether one or another method — from nuclear fission of uranium to fracking shale oil to mining tar sands to building solar panels or wind generators — has downsides and hazards. They all do. The question is how much control over the process can the working-class movement wrest from the imperialist ruling families and other capitalist exploiters on the road to taking power away from them and building a society based on human solidarity and the defense of land and labor in every corner of the globe.

The struggle to provide the energy toilers need worldwide to advance culture and fighting capacity is key to strengthening working-class internationalism and solidarity. And it goes hand-in-hand with rebuilding our unions to fight for control over working conditions on the job.