

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Cuba pledges fight to the end
against Ebola in West Africa
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 7 MARCH 2, 2015

Separatists' gains blow to Ukraine sovereignty

BY NAOMI CRAINE
AND JOHN STUDER

On Feb. 18, as this issue went to press, thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and volunteer combatants were retreating from Debaltseve, some on foot and others fighting their way out, as separatist forces and Russian troops using heavy weapons took control of the town. The defeat there is a political and economic blow to Kiev and to the fight to defend Ukraine's sovereignty.

Debaltseve is a key rail hub. Its capture not only links the main separatist-held cities of Donetsk and Luhansk, but connects the industrial and mining areas in eastern Ukraine to Russia, easing trade and supply lines.

The battle for the town unfolded as a Feb. 15 deadline came and went for a cease-fire, agreed to Feb. 12 in talks involving Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande in Minsk, Belarus.

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Wash. rally: Charge cops who killed farmworker

BY EDGAR FOOTE

PASCO, Wash. — More than 1,000 people marched and rallied here Feb. 14 demanding the arrest of Ryan Flanagan, Adrian Alaniz and Adam Wright, the police officers who killed Antonio Zambrano-Montes here four days earlier. Demonstrators met at Volunteer Park for a rally and then marched to Vinny's Bakery where Zambrano-Montes was gunned down. The cops say he was throwing stones and acting erratically.

The killing was captured on video, which has been watched widely on area television and all over the world on the Internet. Zambrano-Montes has his hands outstretched and visible, clearly unarmed, as he is shot to death.

This was the fourth fatal shooting by Pasco cops since last summer. In the previous three cases, the cops were not prosecuted.

Pasco, on the Columbia River in eastern Washington, is an agricultural area where apples and asparagus are

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Oil workers: 'On strike for safer job conditions'

Walkout in interest of whole working class



Militant/Jerry Freiwirth

Oil workers on strike nationwide are winning solidarity in their fight for safety. Members of California Nurses Association join picket line Feb. 12 at Tesoro refinery in Martinez, Calif.

BY BOB SAMSON

TEXAS CITY, Texas — The strike by 5,200 oil workers is gaining support as it enters its third week. Members of the United Steelworkers

**NO GOV'T INTERVENTION
AGAINST UNION BATTLES!**
— See editorial p.9

union at 11 refineries in Texas, California, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Washington are walking the picket lines around the clock, mak-

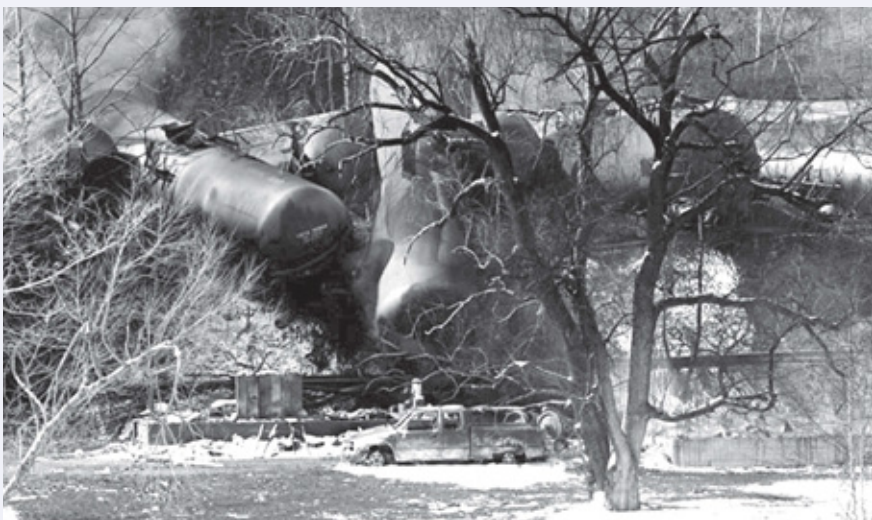
ing this the first nationwide oil strike since 1980. The Steelworkers represent some 30,000 workers throughout the oil industry, including at 65 plants that produce nearly two-thirds of refined petroleum in the country.

The refineries on strike account for 13 percent of national production and are mostly being operated by management and strikebreaking contractors. Those not on strike are operating on day-by-day contract extensions.

"We're not fighting for money, we're fighting for safer working conditions,"

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Oil train derails, explodes, fouling river in WVa



AP/The Register-Herald/Chris Jackson

Twenty-five cars of a CSX Corp. train carrying more than 100 tankers of crude oil derailed near Mount Carbon, West Virginia, Feb. 16, some exploding and sending flames at least 300 feet into the air. The wreck contaminated the Kanawha River, downed power lines and forced the evacuation of 2,400 people from two towns. Last April, 13 tankers on the same route derailed in Lynchburg, Virginia, igniting a fire and contaminating the James River.

The tank cars, each carrying 33,000 gallons of crude oil, were the newer CPC 1232 models — as were the ones that leaked and burned in Lynchburg and in another derailment in New Augusta, Mississippi, in January 2014. The rail bosses claim these cars are more rupture resistant than the older DOT-111 tanks, large numbers of which are still in use, but the recent accidents show the inadequacy of the "superior" version.

As of Feb. 17 the tank cars in West Virginia were still burning, more than 800 homes were without power and as many as 6,000 people without water, according to the *Charleston Gazette*. On Feb. 14, 29 oil cars on a Canadian National Railway Co. train derailed near Gogama, Ontario. Three days later some of those cars were also still on fire.

Worker correspondents for the *Militant* are on their way to Mount Carbon to talk to workers and farmers about the derailment and the fight for safety.

— SETH GALINSKY

Islamist attack in Denmark targets Jews, political rights

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the latest Islamist terror attack in Europe, two people were killed and at least five wounded in Copenhagen, Denmark, Feb. 14-15. Like last month's shootings in France, the targets were Jews, journalists and others

speaking out in defense of political rights. The attacker was Danish native Omar el-Hussein, 22, whose parents were born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon.

Like Amedy Coulibaly, who took Jewish shoppers captive in a Paris

Continued on page 9

West Coast dock bosses lock out port workers, attack union

BY BILL ARTH

LOS ANGELES — Shipping companies and port operators locked out West Coast union dockworkers over the Presidents' Day weekend Feb. 14-16, denying 20,000 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, thousands of truckers and other port employees work and pay, and worsening a growing back-

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Facing gov't threats, Canadian rail workers end strike 6

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Child care workers in Israel hold one-day strike for pay, pensions

Iranian pipe workers, truckers walk out, demand back wages

Georgia farmers discuss new farm bill, fight against racism

BY SHARON LASSEN

ALBANY, Ga. — “There is still a long way to go for Black farmers,” said John Evans, 58, who raises cattle near Coatopa in western Alabama, one of nearly 150 small farmers, several of whom were Caucasian, from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and South Carolina who attended the 32nd Annual Georgia Farmers Conference Feb. 5-6, organized by the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund.

Many Black farmers face difficulties in getting operating loans and other help from the United States Department of Agriculture. “There is still a lot of racism and nepotism,” Evans said.

Some 60 non-farmers participated, including representatives of the USDA and other government agencies.

Some farmers came to learn more about how the 2014 Farm Bill, which replaced direct government payments to farmers with two new “safety-net” programs, would affect them. “We had three dry years and then we got too much rain. I’m waiting for a crop insurance payment right now,” said Nathan Hunt, 31, who grows peanuts and cotton on his farm in Blakely. “It’s going to be tough to make a living. The cost of production and what you get for selling your crop works out on paper — but not in the field. I’m thinking about getting a regular job to help make ends meet.”

Hunt and his father, also a farmer, were attending their first Federation of Southern Cooperatives conference.

“2015 will be challenging, with

tighter margins” for farmers growing row crops like corn, cotton, peanuts and soybeans, said University of Georgia agricultural economist Amanda Smith. Her report highlighted the inherent uncertainties for working farmers forced to sell their products in the framework of the capitalist market system.

Both Smith and Don Kohler from the Georgia Peanut Commission reported there is a surplus of peanuts on the world market, saying farmers should consider rotating in other crops this year. Prices for cotton will also be lower, Smith said, due to decreased demand from China. Farmers in Georgia are the top U.S. producers of peanuts and the second leading growers of cotton.

Conference participants enjoyed the screening of a new documentary, “Dirt and Deeds in Mississippi: The Untold Story of How Black Landowners Became the Secret Weapon of the Fight for Equality.” The almost-completed film is narrated by Danny Glover and describes how Black farmers, especially in Holmes County, Mississippi, defended themselves and others against racist attacks arms in hand during the battles of the 1950s and ’60s that overthrew Jim Crow segregation.

It also shows their collaboration with civil rights fighters, including putting up their land deeds to post bail for them.

“Everything is over in the Pigford II lawsuit,” John Zippert, director of the Federation of Southern Cooperative’s Rural Development Training Center in Epes, Alabama, told confer-



Militant/Sharon Lassen

Participants in Feb. 5-6 conference discussed ongoing challenges facing Black farmers.

ence participants. Pigford II refers to the second round of the historic class-action lawsuit filed by Black farmers against the USDA in 1997, which sought compensation for decades of racist discrimination for being systematically denied loans and access to government farm programs. After protests by Black farmers across the southeast and in Washington, D.C., they won in 1999.

After years of further protests, some farmers, who had been excluded from the first settlement, won the right to file new claims in 2012. A similar class-action lawsuit challenging USDA discrimination against women and Hispanic farmers is in the final stages of being settled, Zippert reported.

Karl Butts, a farmer in Plant City, Florida, contributed to this article.

After 12-year battle against frame-up, Palestinian rights supporter deported

BY SETH GALINSKY

On Feb. 4, 12 years after he was arrested and framed up on charges of conspiracy and providing “material support” to a terrorist group, Sami al-Arian, a prominent supporter of the struggle for Palestinian national rights, was deported to Turkey. “Despite the long and arduous ordeal and hardships suffered by my family, I leave with no bitterness or resentment,” he said in a statement released to the press the following day.

Al-Arian, a professor at the University of South Florida in Tampa and founder of an Islamic school, was indicted in February 2003 under the newly passed Patriot Act. He was charged with being a leader of Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

For most of the nearly three years until the trial verdict in December 2005, al-Arian was held in solitary confinement.

The government’s evidence was largely “speeches I delivered, lectures I presented, articles I wrote, magazines

I edited, books I owned, conferences I convened, rallies I attended, interviews I gave, news I heard, and websites I never even accessed,” al-Arian said.

Despite the attempt to prejudice the jury by prosecuting his political views, al-Arian was acquitted on eight counts. The jury voted 10-2 for acquittal on the remaining nine counts.

To stop the persecution, al-Arian in 2006 agreed to a plea bargain on one minor charge and was sentenced to 57 months in prison. Prosecutors said there would be no further legal action and he would be deported on release. But in 2008 they demanded he appear before an unrelated grand jury and, when he refused, filed first civil and then criminal contempt charges. In September 2008, he won release under house arrest.

Finally, in 2014 the government agreed to dismiss the charges. In accordance with the deportation order, al-Arian flew to Turkey with his wife, Nahia.

THE MILITANT

Fight for rail safety in interest of all workers

A deadly commuter rail crash in New York Feb. 3 highlighted dangerous conditions at railroad crossings in U.S. and worldwide. The ‘Militant’ covers importance of struggle for workers control over job conditions — for rail workers, passengers and nearby communities.



Protesters block train in Sivasagar, India, after person was killed at rail crossing.

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On the Picket Line Editor: Maggie Trowe

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Obama uses Islamic State terror to seek war powers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

President Barack Obama asked Congress Feb. 11 to pass formal, bipartisan authorization for the use of U.S. military force against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. If adopted, the move would endorse the course the White House has been carrying out — using “unique capabilities in support of partners on the ground, instead of large-scale deployments of U.S. ground forces.”

That means that beside U.S. airstrikes and special forces operations, the Iraqi army, Kurdish forces in both countries, and select groups fighting the Bashar al-Assad dictatorship in Syria would wage bloody battles on the ground to defeat the reactionary Islamist forces.

The resolution bars what it calls “enduring offensive ground combat operations,” and is not “authorization of another ground war, like Afghanistan or Iraq,” Obama said Feb. 11. However, it does give the White House “flexibility” to deal with “unforeseen circumstances” and authorizes more far-ranging attacks on any “associated persons or forces” of Islamic State.

The military force request would expire after three years and repeals a 2002 law that authorized the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Executive power to launch war moves abroad, barred by the Constitution, has been the subject of debate over the past 40 years. As mass protests against Washington’s Vietnam War won increasing backing in the working class inside the army and across the country, Congress passed the War Powers Act in 1973. The act requires either a formal

declaration of war or congressional authorization for the president to conduct military operations longer than 60 days.

Many administrations have ordered military operations without authorization, including Bill Clinton in Serbia in 1999 and Obama in Libya four years ago, with little complaint.

The administration says its operations in Iraq and Syria today are already legal under the still-standing 2001 act authorizing war operations against al-Qaeda, including in Afghanistan, for attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Washington has led more than 2,000 airstrikes in Iraq and Syria over the past six months and put some 2,700 U.S. troops in Iraq to train that country’s armed forces. Now, Obama says, he would prefer Congress back the war.

The proposed resolution has evoked criticisms across the spectrum of bourgeois politics. Republican House Speaker John Boehner called for a “robust authorization, not one that limits our options” in a Feb. 11 statement.

The same day a *New York Times* editorial called Obama’s request “alarmingly broad,” saying, “If the White House prevails, it would get virtually unrestricted power to engage in attacks around the globe as long as it can justify a connection, however tenuous, to the Islamic State.”

US attempts to rebuild Iraqi army

In Iraq, Washington’s efforts have focused on trying to rebuild Baghdad’s army, which has shrunk to 48,000 since it was routed by Islamic State in Mosul,



Onder Simsek/Lejournal/SIPA

Kurdish fighters Feb. 1, above, continue to retake villages from Islamic State forces near Kobani, Syria. In both Syria and Iraq, Kurds are only force fighting effectively against Islamic State.

Iraq’s second-largest city, last summer. As the Iraqi army imploded, Islamic State seized control of one-third of the country’s territory in the predominantly Sunni Arab west. Washington wants Baghdad’s troops to fight Islamic State and to serve as a counterweight to the increasingly autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan. But this hasn’t been going so well.

Islamic State forces took control of al-Baghdadi Feb. 12, less than five miles from the Ayn al-Asad air base, where more than 300 U.S. military personnel have been training Iraqi troops. The town was one of the few in Anbar province still under government control. The following day, Islamic State unsuccessfully attacked the base.

Since the U.S. war in Iraq brought down the Saddam Hussein regime in 2003, Washington has backed successive governments in Baghdad dominated by sectarian Shiite political forces. Backed by Iran, the capitalist rulers in Baghdad have funded and armed Shi-

ite militias, encompassing more than 100,000 fighters, which have been more capable than the Iraqi army in fighting Islamic State. But they’ve also carried out sectarian and brutal attacks on Sunnis living in those areas.

Kurdish fighters, led by the Peshmerga army in northern Iraq and the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) in Syria, are the only truly effective forces combating Islamic State.

“We will continue cleansing one village after another and after that, we will continue to liberate all of Rojava [West Kurdistan] and all Syrian soil” from Islamic State, Shorsh Hassan, YPG spokesman in Kobani, told the Associated Press Feb. 10. After more than four months of bloody street battles, Kurdish forces led the battle to drive Islamic State out of Kobani in January, with support from U.S. bombing. Since then they have retaken more than 160 villages in the area. “This is the promise we have made to ourselves and to the Kurdish and Syrian people,” Hassan said.

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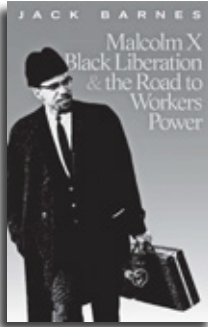
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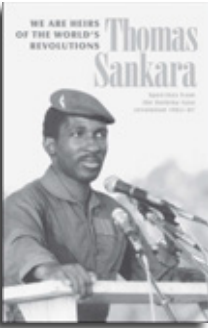
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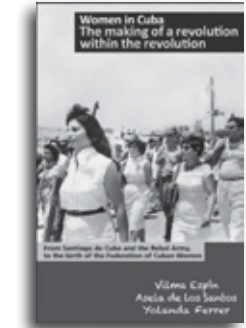
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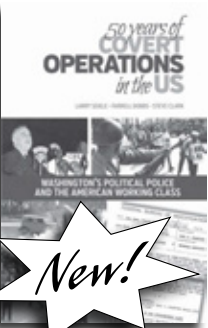
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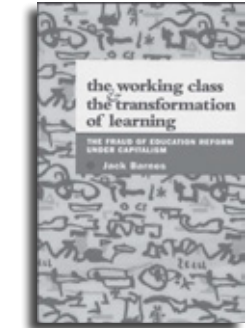
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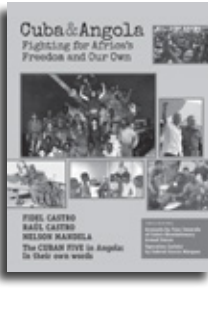
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NYPD ‘terror’ unit threatens workers’ political space

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The New York Police Department, like cop agencies in Canada and across Europe, is using the Islamist attacks in Paris that killed 13 people at *Charlie Hebdo* and four victims of Jew-hatred at a kosher supermarket to beef up its “counterterrorism” operations. They argue that deterring possible terror attacks trumps freedom of speech and association. Plans include a larger police presence at political protest actions.

Police Commissioner William Bratton announced the creation of a new 350-member anti-terrorism unit, which would be equipped with long rifles and machine guns, to “handle” large demonstrations. The unit “is designed for dealing with events like our recent protests” against the police chokehold killing of Eric Garner in Staten Island, or “what just happened in Paris,” Bratton told officers at a Police Foundation breakfast Jan. 29.

The next day, following widespread public criticism, Bratton backed off, saying two new, separate units would be created. One, involving some 550 cops, would deal with monitoring protesters and other short-term as-

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Blow to Ukraine sovereignty

Continued from front page

Poroshenko said he had proposed an immediate halt to the fighting, but Putin insisted on the three-day delay, which the pro-Moscow forces used to concentrate their assault. On Feb. 17 Putin called on Kiev to give up Debaltseve, saying, “Of course it’s a hardship when you lose to yesterday’s miners or yesterday’s tractor drivers. But life is life. It’ll surely go on.”

But despite his contemptuous denials, it is Moscow’s shipments of troops, tanks and artillery, not miners and trucks, that have shifted the relationship of forces.

Six months ago, squabbling separatist forces controlled relatively small, disconnected areas in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, and stood on the verge of defeat by pro-Ukraine fighters. Since then pro-Moscow units have seized some 200 square miles of new territory from the Ukrainian army and volunteer brigades.

As the defense of Debaltseve crumbled, Semen Semenchenko, a member of Ukraine’s parliament and commander of the volunteer Donbass Battalion, said the military was so poorly led there should be criminal charges against the head of the general staff. “There were enough forces and equipment,” Semenchenko wrote. “The problem is coordination and command.”

The separatist actions began in response to the sustained mass popular mobilizations that toppled the pro-Moscow government of Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014. The overwhelming majority of working people throughout the country celebrated his departure, at the same time not trusting the capitalist politicians who replaced him, including billionaire candy factory owner Porosh-

enko, seeing them as the same corrupt, profit-driven crew that runs the government as a tool to further their own class interests.

The actions of the Ukrainian government in response to the separatist provocations have weakened the fight for working-class unity and defense of Ukrainian sovereignty. Kiev has alienated some workers by callously treating civilians who remain in separatist-held territories as enemies, including cutting off their pension funds. In combat dominated by inaccurate artillery fire, both sides frequently shell working-class areas.

“How can I be for a united Ukraine when Kiev has spent the last six months bombing us?” a worker named Svetlana in the city of Donetsk told the *Financial Times*. She said she opposed the separatists’ attempt at a secessionist referendum in May, but has had to live in an underground bomb shelter in the months since.

IMF, bosses squeeze workers

The International Monetary Fund, which represents the interests of U.S. and European finance capital, announced Feb. 12 it is preparing a new “aid package” of \$17.5 billion in loans to Kiev over the next four years. IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde praised Ukrainian officials for cutting social spending and raising gas and heating prices, but said more cuts must be made in exchange for additional loans.

These measures target working people, who are already hit by soaring inflation and a devastating slowdown in production. The official unemployment rate in Ukraine is 9.9 percent and rising. The Merefia Glass factory near Kharkiv recently suspended production, laying off more than 2,000 workers. The plant’s main furnace is broken and the



Nearly 1,500 miners protest in front of Cabinet of Ministers in Ukrainian capital Kiev in January demanding back pay and opposing mine closures. Right, Olga Shkoropad, president of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine local at the Lviv Coal Processing Plant.

enterprise can no longer get raw materials from a supplier in Russian-occupied Crimea because of sanctions.

The conditions for the IMF bailout include cutting subsidies to coal mines and other state enterprises. “Many will lose their jobs and salaries, but we don’t have any other way,” said Social Policy Minister Pavlo Rozenko, speaking for a “we” that clearly doesn’t include miners and their families.

At the Lviv Coal Processing Plant, workers are still owed a large portion of their wages since July, Olga Shkoropad, president of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NPGU) local at the plant, told the *Militant* Feb. 15. The plant also has an outstanding energy bill, and will be shut if the debt is not paid by Feb. 18, she said. Workers from the Lviv plant joined national protests in Kiev in January, demanding

back pay and opposing mine closures.

Fearing working class opposition, the pro-Moscow justice minister in the so-called People’s Republic of Luhansk issued an order Jan. 20 barring all “registration of independent trade unions,” denying recognition to the NGPU.

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by Jack Barnes

In *New International* issue no. 11 \$16

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—CALENDAR—

TEXAS

Houston

Tell Glencore to End the Illegal Lock-out. Rally to support 450 Sherwin Alumina workers locked out since October 2014 near Corpus Christi, Tex. Thurs., Feb. 26, noon. 4265 San Felipe St. Tel.: (832) 556-0370. Sponsored by United Steelworkers union.

Correction

The article “Protests Denounce Killing by New Jersey Cops” in issue no. 4 misspelled the name of the president of the South Jersey Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. She is Karen Petway.

Venezuelan gov’t denounces coup plot, US sanctions

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro announced Feb. 12 that a coup plot to overthrow the government had been foiled that day, with both civilians and members of the military detained.

“Those involved were being paid in U.S. dollars, and one of the suspects had been granted a visa to enter the United States should the plot fail,” reported Telesur TV.

A retired air force general and 10 other soldiers were among those implicated, according to National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello. Top military leaders denounced the coup plot at a news conference Feb. 13.

The reported plot coincided with the one-year anniversary of the beginning of anti-government protests last year. The day before, Feb. 11, opposition leaders Antonio Ledezma, María Corina Machado and Leopoldo López released a joint “Call for a National Transition Agreement.”

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki termed “ludicrous” the accusation that Washington was plotting to oust Maduro. “Political transitions must be democratic, constitutional, peaceful, and legal,” she said.

The U.S. government backed a failed 2002 military coup against the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez. Washington has tried to undermine the government in Caracas

ever since Chávez was elected in 1998. His government reorganized the oil industry and refused to bow to U.S. dictates, especially to end Venezuela’s close collaboration with Cuba.

Washington stepped up its grinding pressure on Caracas Feb. 2 by widening restrictions against government officials there. Congress passed a law in December authorizing the U.S. president to deny visas and freeze the assets of Venezuelans Washington accuses of “human rights abuses” or corruption.

Soon after the law was passed President Barack Obama applied the sanctions to 24 current or former Venezuelan officials. The latest move adds to the list and bans some immediate family members from traveling to the U.S.

Venezuela has been hard hit by the drop in world oil prices, since petroleum accounts for some 95 percent of the country’s exports. Oil prices declined from \$112 a barrel in June 2014 to \$53 last month. Venezuela’s daily output of 2 million barrels of crude is now worth \$38.6 billion a year compared to \$82 billion seven months earlier.

In 2014, Venezuela had a budget deficit of more than \$57 billion, largely from importing goods and services. The official inflation rate in the country is 68 percent, one of the world’s highest. At the same time, payments

on its roughly \$75 billion foreign debt to banks in the U.S. and other imperialist countries siphon increased amounts of wealth produced by working people out of the country.

One effect is growing shortages and long lines for workers seeking to buy basic necessities, from toilet paper to food.

To face the economic crisis, Maduro said he would raise gasoline prices later this year. Gas is subsidized, costing just 5 cents a gallon. At the same time he said he would raise the minimum wage and government housing subsidies.

Two days after Washington’s latest travel restrictions were announced, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Delcy Rodríguez “stressed the strong bilateral cooperation relations uniting her country and Cuba” at a meeting with Cuban Ambassador Rogelio Polanco, reported the Cuban News Agency. Last year 56 new accords in energy, oil, agriculture, health, education and sports were signed by the two governments. Venezuela sells Cuba 100,000 barrels of oil a day at preferential prices, a key component for the island’s energy needs.

At the Jan. 28-29 meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, Cuban President Raúl Castro called the sanctions unacceptable. He said Washington’s goal is to create a “climate of destabilization.”

—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

Metal workers across Turkey protest strike ban

Demonstrations of unionists and supporters demanding the right to strike took place in Ankara, Istanbul and other cities across Turkey in the days following a decree issued by the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Jan. 30 "postponing" for 60 days a strike by 15,000 metalworkers on the day that it began. The workers are affiliated with the Progressive Confederation of Trade Unions (DISK).

The government said the strike was a threat to "national security." Turkish labor law authorizes such an action, which in effect bans the walkout, as the dispute must then be settled by the government's High Board of Arbitration after 60 days.

In most of the protests, metalworkers marched to local offices of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

In Ankara Feb. 4, workers carried a DISK banner that read, "The right to strike cannot be banned." Some were arrested. Six days later, some 400 miners from the western town of Soma, where a mine explosion killed 301 workers in May 2013, marched on parliament demanding severance pay promised by officials after the accident.

In Mersin province on the Mediterranean coast Feb. 3, metalworkers were joined by a group of laid-off city workers.

Some 300 workers from Celik-Is steel plant in Sivas province in central Turkey held a protest, saying they had not been paid since November 2014.

At the Ejot Tezmac plant in Istanbul, 82 workers quit, but after negotiations they went back to work Feb. 10.

—Yasemin Aydinoglu

Child care workers in Israel hold 1-day strike for pay, pensions

Nearly 1,000 child care workers rallied in front of the Ministry of the Economy in Jerusalem during a one-day nationwide strike in Israel Feb. 9 to demand higher pay from the government and pensions.

Some 2,500 workers organized by the Koach La Ovdim (Workers Power) trade union federation, out of 3,400 nationwide, took part in the work stoppage. Most of the caregivers are women, who run day care centers for a maximum of five children up to 3 years old. About 40 percent are Arab, 35 percent ultra-Orthodox Jews and the rest mostly secular Jewish workers.

"Normally we hold picket lines when we go on strike," Koach La Ovdim Organizational Secretary Shay Cohen said by phone Feb. 13. "But because everyone works alone in their home, we held a rally instead."

Economy Minister Naftali Bennett issued a statement after the protest rejecting the demands, saying that the caregivers are business owners, not workers, therefore not entitled to pensions or other social benefits.

According to Koach La Ovdim, the

caregivers work 11 hours a day, five days a week. "They haven't had a raise in three years," Cohen said.

—Seth Galinsky

Iranian pipe workers, truckers walk out, demand back wages

Some 1,000 workers went on strike Feb. 1 demanding back pay at Safa Rolling and Pipe Mills Co. in Saveh, Iran, some 90 miles southwest of Tehran.

One worker said a plant manager told a workers' meeting that if they didn't like conditions at the factory they should quit, the Iranian Labor News Agency reported. Twenty-six truck drivers also joined the strike, de-



Striking child care workers rally Feb. 9 at Ministry of Economy in Jerusalem. Some 2,500 Arab and Jewish workers, mostly women, joined walkout in Israel demanding pay raise, pensions.

manding back wages.

After a series of strikes last year and an October lockout when Safa hired scabs, the Saveh City Council ordered the company to pay the workers a month's back pay on Jan. 11 and 30, Feb. 28 and March 16, and a New Year's bonus March 20. Two days after the second installment was due, workers

walked out.

Factory management fired 10 striking workers Feb. 14. The previous week two engineers, Ali Haji Hosseini and Mohammad Reza Khoshroo, were fired for solidarity they had shown with the workers, reported Iranian Labor News Agency.

—Maggie Trowe

Conferences in March to discuss fight for rail safety

BY JEFF POWERS

SAN FRANCISCO — "The Future of Railroads: Safety, Workers, Community and the Environment" is the title for two upcoming conferences sponsored by Railroad Workers United, a labor group active in last year's successful fight against one-person "crews" at the BNSF Railway, and Backbone Campaign, an organization based in Washington state active on environmental and other issues. The conferences will be held March 14 in Richmond, California, and March 21 in Olympia, Washington.

"In the wake of Lac-Mégantic and other derailments, the public is alarmed about oil trains and the movement of trains in general through their communities," the brochure for the conferences says. The 2013 derailment in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, led to an explosion and fire when tank cars filled with fracked crude oil burst, killing 47 people.

"The public generally has no idea what

goes on daily on America's railroads," the brochure continues. "Chronic crew fatigue, single employee train crews, excessively long and heavy trains, draconian availability policies, short staffing, [and] limited time off work create challenging safety issues of concern not just to railroaders, but to the entire population."

"I was up in Martinez this weekend supporting refinery workers at Tesoro who are on strike," Richmond conference organizer Gifford Hartman told the *Militant* Feb. 10. "The big issue in their fight is safety."

That "is the big concern for railroad workers," Hartman said. "Working-class communities near the tracks and refineries are forced to deal with the same problem — safety. Everyone's issues overlap. The conference will help build alliances with railroad and other workers and the communities that are affected by rail traffic."

Workshops planned for the conferences include "Single Employee Train Crews and the Importance of Teamwork," "Railroading 101 for Beginners," "The Problem with Excessively Long and Heavy Trains" and "Climate/Environment and Transportation by Rail of Extreme and Dirty Energy 101."

Thirty labor, environmental and other groups and individuals have endorsed the gatherings, including SMART Transportation Division Local 31, Greenpeace USA, the Puget Sound District Council of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Richmond Progressive Alliance, and the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters.

If the two meetings are successful, a resolution adopted by the conference organizing committee in November says, they want to expand them "to other towns and cities across North America."

For more information and to register, go to www.railroadconference.org.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 2, 1990

In the course of their 11-month strike against Pittston Coal Group, which ended February 19, union miners, who began by confronting Pittston's drive to break their union, accomplished more than they set out to, as they turned to the entire labor movement and won solidarity for their strike.

Members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) at Pittston reached out to — and won a response from — tens of thousands of workers across the country and worldwide who were inspired by the fight and moved to add the weight of their unions to the side of the battling miners.

Most significantly, the striking miners met workers involved in another key labor battle: International Association of Machinists members on strike against Frank Lorenzo's Eastern Airlines.



March 1, 1965

America's racist rulers can breathe easier now that Malcolm X has been assassinated. For he was the most uncompromising incorruptible and talented leader of this country's 22 million oppressed, deprived and insulted Black citizens.

The white power structure's lying newspapers portrayed Malcolm X — during his life and since his murder — as a dangerous and threatening figure. He was dangerous — to the whole barbaric and degenerate system of racial oppression, South and North. He was threatening — to those who uphold and profit from that system. He was a leader they feared because they knew his kind would never call a "moratorium" or "cooling-off" period in the struggle of the Afro-American masses short of complete and total victory.



March 2, 1940

For several months now Fritz Thyssen has been in self-imposed exile — the same Thyssen who, second only to Krupp, was the most powerful representative of German heavy industry and at the same time one of the most generous contributors to Hitler's party.

Seldom has the crisis of Hitler's dictatorship been shown in sharper and clearer lines than in the emigration of this unscrupulous profiteer, who with his friends among the lords of the Rhineland heavy industry financed Hitler's initial rise to power.

But Hitler has not fulfilled the expectations of his underwriters. Out of the expected destruction of Russia has come a partnership. Germany has once more become engaged in a war, whose outcome is in the highest degree unpredictable, which entails a great risk of defeat or internal collapse.

Oil workers strike enters 3rd week

Continued from front page
said Phil Harris when he stopped by the union hall after picket duty at the Marathon refinery here Feb. 15. Three oil refineries and two related facilities are on strike in the Houston area “not just to protect the workers but the communities,” he said.

“People do die on this job,” Warren Kostenuk, a worker in the alkylation unit at Tesoro in Martinez, California, told the *Militant*. Seven died in a 2010 leak and fire at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Washington. “Four more died and one was critically injured right here in 1999,” he said. “We put our lives on the line every day. Safety has to be the top priority.”

Fatigue is the central issue, many of the strikers said, because they are forced to work 12-hour shifts for extended periods with few days off.

Shell Oil bosses see it differently. “One of the issues on the table is the company’s fundamental rights to staff operations according to business needs,” Shell Deer Park Site General Manager Barry Klein said in a company statement Feb. 7.

In Anacortes, Washington, management at Tesoro sent a letter Feb. 3 to Steelworkers attacking their union for going on strike.

James Tangaro, company vice president at the refinery, ticks off all the things striking workers will lose. “All pay will cease,” he says, as well as health insurance, life insurance, disability, retirement and all company scholarships for workers’ children.

He says they can get health care on COBRA for \$1,772 a month.

Tami Straub, a picket captain in Anacortes, showed a tattoo on her arm with seven stars for the five men and two women killed in the 2010 explosion there. “This was the crew that relieved me when I went home that day,” she said. “A lot of us have tattoos in memory of those workers.”

Solidarity grows

Solidarity for the strike is growing. After learning about the walkout, Boo Breland and Chris Vetra, both of whom work at Chevron’s Oronite chemical plant near New Orleans, hopped in a car and drove to the picket line at the Marathon refinery here Feb. 14.

“I want them to know that when they are looking over their shoulder for who is backing them up, here I am,” Breland said. On the way they stopped in Gonzalez, Louisiana, where BASF chemical workers contributed a trailer load of canned goods. At the Texas City union hall they cooked a couple giant pots of jambalaya, a spicy Cajun rice, meat and a seafood dish for the strikers.

“I believe the industry looked at this workforce and thought now is the time to test the mettle of the new employees,” W.E. Sanders, Subdistrict Director for Steelworkers District 13, told the *Militant*. While Texas is a “right to work” state, where workers in a union-organized plant can choose not to join the union, only 11 of the 1,100 oil workers at Marathon aren’t union members, he said.

At ECO Services, a sulfuric acid-making plant where many employees are in their mid-20s, the Steelworkers have 100 percent membership, Steve Ballesteros, president of USW Local

227 in Pasadena, told the *Houston Chronicle* Feb. 6. Half of those 80 ECO workers rallied on behalf of the striking Steelworkers and barbecued for those on the picket lines.

Steelworkers Local 7-1 in Whiting, Indiana, was a center of activity Feb. 14. Union signs left by workers who had joined the pickets lined the walls. There were shelves stocked with supplies and long tables full of hot food, coffee and pastries for strikers waiting for a ride to picket duty at one of the 12 gates at the BP Whiting refinery, the third largest in the U.S. Supporters bring truckloads of wood every day to burn in steel drums to keep pickets warm.

“We received tons of support the first week of the strike,” Dave Danko, Local 7-1 president told the *Militant*. “Northwest Indiana and Greater Chicago is a strong union area. Teachers, nurses, autoworkers and USW locals from the steel mills have come to the picket lines. Community people come by the union hall and picket lines and bring food and cash.”

Members of Steelworkers Local 5 in Martinez, California, got a boost when two dozen nurses, members of the California Nurses Association, joined the picket lines at the Tesoro refinery



Militant/Clay Dennison

Striking oil workers picket in front of Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Washington, Feb. 7.

Feb. 12.

“Worker Safety Protects Community Health!” read the banner the nurses carried.

After a two-day strike in November, union nurses won a contract requiring bosses to hire more nurses to lessen chronic understaffing and better preparation to protect nurses and patients in treating Ebola and other infectious diseases.

“Nurses are here today because so many of the conditions the

Steelworkers are facing are the same the nurses are facing,” Katy Roemer, a nurse at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, said at an impromptu rally at the gate. “They need the ability to shut down production when they identify health and safety risks.”

Jerry Freiwirth and Betsey Stone in Martinez, California, John Naubert in Anacortes, Washington, and Anne Parker in Whiting, Indiana, contributed to this article.

West coast dock bosses lock out port workers

Continued from front page
log of shipments, as the bosses seek to pressure longshore workers to accept bargaining concessions.

“Port Woes Starting to Damage Businesses,” read a front-page headline in the *Wall Street Journal* Feb. 17. “As employers at the ports along the West Coast on Monday refused to unload ships for the sixth day out of the past 10, their nine-month contract dispute with port workers is becoming a significant business problem,” the article said.

The number of container ships waiting to dock at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach increased to 33 by Feb. 16, according to the Marine Exchange of Southern California. Employers, including Walmart, Levi Strauss & Co. and Honda Motor Co., are reporting shortages of products and parts. Losses are estimated to be over \$1 billion a day.

Steve Getzug, a Pacific Maritime Association spokesman, said the employers shut down work to avoid paying overtime and holiday premium pay. In January, the association announced that it would not order crews to unload ships on night shift. It also suspended weekend work Feb. 6-8.

The dockworkers’ contract expired July 1. Port bosses accuse unionists of carrying out a coast-wide slowdown, aiming to blame workers for delays.

The union countered with photographs posted on its website showing sufficient space for thousands of containers on the docks, and blamed the port bosses for a shortage of truck chassis and the rail bosses for a shortage of trains as a result of an increase in more profitable oil transport.

The Pacific Maritime Association made an updated proposal Feb. 4 for a five-year contract, making some concessions to dockworkers, including a 14 percent pay increase over five years, continuing to pay 100 percent for health care and granting union jurisdiction over maintenance and repair of truck chassis.

Several key issues remain unresolved, including how workplace disputes are arbitrated.

“The PMA is trying to divide us by using lies and tactics to turn the public against us and turn locals against the negotiating committee and the rank and file against each other,” said ILWU President Robert McEllrath in a Feb. 11 video message to the union member-

ship. “Nobody divides the ILWU. There is only one way to win this battle — to stick together.”

Under pressure from the mounting disruption to trade and corporate profits, President Barack Obama sent Labor Secretary Tom Perez to California to increase pressure on the union for a settlement. Meetings began Feb. 17 as ports began reopening.

Facing gov’t threats, Canadian rail workers end strike

BY JOE YOUNG

CALGARY, Alberta — Safety is at the heart of the battle of more than 3,000 rail workers against the drive of Canadian Pacific Railway to increase their profits at the expense of the well-being of workers, people who live along rail tracks and nature.

The Teamsters-organized engineers, conductors, trainmen and yardmen went on strike at 12:01 a.m. Feb. 15 against Canadian Pacific, one of Canada’s two major railways transporting freight across the continent.

Facing moves by the Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper to impose back-to-work legislation, union officials decided to end the strike and agreed to mediated arbitration with the company.

Teamsters Canada Rail Conference President Douglas Finnsen released a statement Feb. 15, saying the union went on strike “to achieve a healthy and safe work environment for the working people.”

“The current contract says we have rest time after 10 hours on the job,” Chris Yeandel, a locomotive engineer and chairman of the health and safety committee at the Montreal Côte St. Luc Canadian Pacific rail yard, told the *Militant* on the picket line, “but they violate that all the time. A lot of us are working 12, 13 hours with no break.”

Several strikers were wearing vests

saying in French, “Fatigue kills.”

“We’re not out for money,” Yeandel said. “We’re trying to keep what we already have in terms of rest time and on the job safety. The company is demanding change in contract language so that now when forced to work 12 hours, it’s in the contract,” he said.

The federal government acted rapidly to support the rail bosses, threatening to put a law ending the strike before Parliament Feb. 16.

“I am incredibly disappointed that the TCRC failed to reach an agreement with CP Rail. Due to this reckless disregard for Canadians and the Canadian economy, our government will review all available options to end any work-stoppage expeditiously,” Labor Minister Kellie Leitch said in a statement after the strike began.

The government pulled the legislation after the Teamsters agreed to arbitration. “Minister Leitch, she really picked one side fast,” Derrel Sundholm, an engineer and president of Division 355 of Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, told the *Calgary Herald* Feb. 16 as he and other strikers packed up their picket signs.

“CP Rail doesn’t have to negotiate seriously when they know that the government is going to legislate us back to work,” Jason Hnatiuk, an engineer and picket captain in Vancouver, British Columbia, told the *Militant*. “It takes away

Cuba pledges fight to the end against Ebola in West Africa

BY SETH GALINSKY

“First of all, we volunteer. Each person has to make that decision,” said Félix Báez, recalling how he became one of the 256 Cuban medical personnel helping to fight Ebola in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, and the first and only one to become infected with the virus himself. He was interviewed by *MEDICC Review* in their January issue. “When I read about Ebola, I decided to sign up because it seemed help was needed right away,” he said. The World Health Organization, which sponsors Cuban doctors fighting Ebola, sent Báez to Geneva University Hospital in Switzerland for treatment. “I was totally isolated, wrapped up in what looked like a space suit covered with cellophane,” Báez said. He was met in Geneva by Jorge Pérez, director of Cuba’s Pedro Kouri Tropical Medicine Institute, which organizes training the Cuban volunteers.

“They treated Félix with enormous affection,” Pérez told *MEDICC Review*. “Once he was on the mend, his sense of humor — that Cuban sense of humor — also came back. ... He told me ‘I’m going to be okay, and I’m going back to Sierra Leone.’” Pérez said. “Those were his first words to me.”

MEDICC Review is published by Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba, which works to develop coordination between health workers in Cuba, the U.S. and elsewhere in the world.

“Although we’ve gone over and over it, we still don’t know how I was infected,” Báez said, noting they carefully follow rigorous protocols to prevent getting sick. “But of course, we didn’t

live in a bubble; we lived in a hotel, we ate food there, mingled to some extent with others outside the hospital setting.”

“They have to find a vein [to put in IV fluids], examine patients, touch patients, help them to the bathroom,” Pérez added.

The largest contingent of Cuban health workers, 165, are posted at four clinics spread throughout Sierra Leone.

“The first cases I saw were critical, people who had sought treatment very late. My first three patients died,” Báez said. “Then there was a little four-year-old girl, who came in with no pulse, very sick with malaria. We were able to save her. And then a brother and a sister, Cecilia and Daniel, in their 30s. Both had Ebola.”

“Once I got sick, I was in the room across from them, and we’d shout to each other across the hall,” he said. “Thankfully, both of them recovered, too.”

“Without proper conditions, fatalities run from 50 percent to 90 percent. We’ve now reduced them to about 20 percent where the Cubans are working in teams with others,” Pérez said.

“Ebola brings into terrible relief the difference between robust health systems and ones that are struggling without resources,” he said. “We see only incipient health systems throughout Africa, with the exception of South Africa.”

“The problem of Ebola will only be resolved in communities themselves,” Pérez said, noting it is a social not just a medical question. It requires “education, local health workers in direct contact with people who live there. So they can recognize the symptoms, know what to do early, learn how to bury their dead in a safer way.”

Pérez’s institute is sharing Cuba’s experience in fighting Ebola with other Latin American countries. All Cuban health workers are quarantined for Ebola’s 21-day incubation period when they return. Cuba doesn’t yet have a WHO-certified laboratory for confirming Ebola cases and because of the U.S. embargo has access to only one certified lab, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. “Soon, we hope our lab will also have the requisite conditions for certification,” Pérez said.

The number of new cases across Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea has fallen from a peak of more than 1,000 per week in October to less than 125 per week by late January. But new cases have increased for the last two weeks, reaching 144 in the week ending Feb. 8.

Speaking of his case, “I think it helped make more people aware that Cubans and others were risking their own lives to save African lives,” Báez said.

“I said to myself: human life began in Africa. Will it end there, because people are abandoned?” Báez said. “I decided to go back because people need us, our whole team.”

“And besides,” he said, “my dad always told me never to be a quitter.”

The Cuban government and leaders of the volunteer brigades have pledged

Cuban 5 victory marks Havana book festival



Inset: Granma/José Correa Armas

HAVANA — Tens of thousands are pouring into San Carlos de La Cabaña, the Spanish colonial fortress that is the site of the 11-day international book fair that opened here Feb. 12. They are flocking to literature stands and to dozens of book launches, panel discussions, events for children, poetry readings, art exhibits, concerts, film showings and theater performances that take place during this annual event.

This year’s book fair is marked by the victory won with the return home in December of Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero. Along with René González and Fernando González, who were released from U.S. prisons earlier, the Cuban Five — as they became known worldwide — spent between 15 and more than 16 years in federal custody on trumped-up charges because of their actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

At the inaugural ceremony, televised nationwide, Zuleica Romay, president of the Cuban Book Institute, gave a special welcome to Hernández, Labañino, Guerrero, and members of their families who were present (above from left, with Elizabeth Palmeiro, Labañino’s wife). The three have participated in several fair events featuring books by or about the Cuban Five.

India is the country of honor at the book fair, the first Asian country to participate in such a prominent manner. Cuban publishers produced 27 titles about India or by Indian authors, translating works by prominent writers ranging from Rabindranath Tagore to Arundhati Roy. Programs of Indian films and dance are also being featured.

Some 2 million people are expected to attend the nationwide book festival, which continues in Havana until Feb. 22 and then travels across the island to every province, ending in Santiago de Cuba April 26.

— JONATHAN SILBERMAN AND JACOB PERASSO

they will remain in West Africa until the epidemic is wiped out.

This is in sharp contrast to the U.S. government, the richest in the world, which sent 3,000 soldiers to build 17 Ebola treatment units in Liberia, but completed just 10. By the time the first clinic opened in November new cases in Liberia had already declined and U.S.-built facilities stand nearly empty. Several haven’t seen a single Ebola patient.

“If they had been built when we needed them, it wouldn’t have been too much,” Moses Massaquoi, who heads Liberia’s Ebola case management, told *Stars and Stripes*. “But they were too

late.”

Half of the U.S. troops have already been pulled out and most of the rest will leave by March, reported *USA Today*.

Two Cuban volunteers contracted malaria and died. Jorge Juan Guerra Rodríguez died Oct. 26 in Guinea, and Reinaldo Villafranca died Jan. 18 in Sierra Leone.

“Today, Jan. 19, 2015, we discharged eight patients who had been infected with Ebola,” reported Cuban volunteers in Guinea after Villafranca died. That is “the best homage we can pay to a brother fallen while carrying out his duty.”



Cuban doctor Félix Báez, left, returned to mission in Sierra Leone after recovering from Ebola. Above, Cuban medical workers with patients being discharged after being cured of Ebola in Guinea Jan. 19, day after another Cuban volunteer died of malaria. This is “the best homage we can pay to a brother fallen while carrying out his duty,” they wrote.

Malcolm X became the voice of coming revolution in US

As part of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X, we are reprinting excerpts from the introduction to *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The Spanish version is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. *Malcolm X* was one of the outstanding revolutionary leaders of the 20th century. His political legacy and example, especially in the last year of his life, has been misrepresented, Barnes points out. *Malcolm X's* emerging revolutionary convictions are available to all who are interested in eight books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press, containing some 60 talks, interviews and letters from his final months. Copyright © 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

This is a book about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

A book about the last century and a half of class struggle in the United States — from the Civil War and Radical Reconstruction to today — and the unimpeachable evidence it offers that workers who are Black will comprise a disproportionately weighty part of the ranks and leadership of the mass so-



Malcolm X speaks at 1962 rally of New York hospital workers' union. Malcolm's views evolved, especially in last year of his life. "I believe there will be a clash between the oppressed and the oppressor," he said in January 1965. "I don't think it will be based upon the color of the skin."

cial movement that will make a proletarian revolution.

It is a book about why this revolutionary conquest of state power by a politically class-conscious and organized vanguard of the working class — millions strong — is necessary. About why that new state power provides working people the mightiest weapon possible to wage the ongoing battle to end Black oppression and every form of exploitation and human degradation inherited from millennia of class-divided society. And how participation in that struggle itself changes them to the point they are politically capable of carrying that battle through to the end.

This is a book about the last year of Malcolm X's life. About how he became the face and the authentic voice of the forces of the coming American revolution. ...



Over the past half century, two developments above all have transformed revolutionary prospects for working people in the United States. They have had a deep impact on the capacity and effectiveness, the proletarian character, of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

One is the conquest of power in 1959 by the workers and farmers of Cuba. That triumph not only opened the road to socialist revolution in the Americas. It marked a renewal in action of the

proletarian internationalist course first pointed to by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels more than a century earlier and then carried out in life by workers and peasants in Russia in 1917 under the leadership of V. I. Lenin and the Bolshevik Party.

The other is the post-World War II rise of the popular struggle for Black liberation in the United States, from which Malcolm X, its outstanding single leader, emerged. Even in the early 1960s, while Malcolm was still the best-known spokesman for the Nation of Islam, leaders of the Socialist Workers Party recognized in his words and deeds an uncompromising leader of unusual caliber. The Nation itself was a bourgeois-nationalist, religious organization, as it remains today. As Malcolm pointed out after his public break from the Nation in March 1964, it "didn't take part in politics" and its hierarchy, led by Elijah Muhammad, was "motivated mainly by protecting its own self-interests."

But Malcolm's voice was increasingly that of a revolutionary leader of the working class. And during the last year of his life, the political clarity of his words advanced with blinding speed.

In January 1965, less than a year after his split from the Nation, Malcolm told a television interviewer, "I believe that there will ultimately be a clash between the oppressed and those that do the oppressing. I believe that there will be a

clash between those who want freedom, justice, and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the systems of exploitation.

"I believe that there will be that kind of clash," Malcolm said, "but I don't think that it will be based upon the color of the skin, as Elijah Muhammad had taught it."

Speaking on behalf of the Young Socialist Alliance to a March 1965 New York City memorial meeting a few weeks after Malcolm's assassination, I pointed out how relentlessly Malcolm had pressed beyond his origins in the Nation of Islam to emerge in world politics as the outstanding "leader of the struggle for Black liberation" in the United States. "To his people he first and foremost belongs." At the same time, to young people of all backgrounds attracted to the working class and proletarian politics, in this country and around the world, Malcolm X had become "the face and the authentic voice of the forces of the coming American revolution. He spoke the truth to our generation of revolutionists. ... Malcolm challenged American capitalism from right inside. He was living proof for our generation of revolutionists that it can and will happen here."

Almost half a century later, I have nothing to change in that assessment, and I can still recognize the young socialist who made it. But I am aware that no one would ever recognize *this* Malcolm X, the living Malcolm we knew — the Malcolm who kept fighting and growing to the last day of his life — if their knowledge of his political course came solely from *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* prepared by journalist Alex Haley, or from the 1992 movie *Malcolm X* directed by Spike Lee. Together those are the main sources of "information" about Malcolm today, having been read or viewed, in multiple languages, by literally tens of millions the world over. Both, however, freeze Malcolm's *political* trajectory in April 1964 when he made the hajj to Mecca, only a month after his public break with the Nation of Islam. Everything after that pilgrimage gets short shrift in both autobiography and film. But Malcolm's experiences and the political conclusions he drew didn't stop there. In fact, he had barely begun.

February

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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No gov’t intervention in labor battles!

Oil workers on strike across the U.S., West Coast dockworkers resisting the lockouts by the port bosses and rail workers in Canada and the U.S. standing up to the employers’ deadly profit drive are setting an example for the working class today and deserve the broadest solidarity. In these fights workers are taking the moral high ground — defending the life and limb not only of themselves but of all working people.

From Washington state to Texas, striking oil workers can name the co-workers who have been lost to what one Shell manager called “the company’s fundamental rights to staff operations according to business needs.” Striking rail workers at Canadian Pacific Railway carried signs saying, “Fatigue kills.”

The derailed oil tankers that are still burning in West Virginia and Ontario as the *Militant* goes to press bring home what railroad workers have been saying about the dangers of smaller crews, longer trains and the massive increase in rail transportation of volatile crude oil. The West Virginia wreck involved new, supposedly stronger tank cars that U.S. officials have deemed adequate in order not to cost the titans of industry too much.

In these fights workers come up not only against the capitalists directly, but the governments that represent them. The Canadian government rushed to intervene against the rail workers strike, as Ottawa and Washington have done many times before. President Barack

Obama dispatched his secretary of labor to the West Coast to put the squeeze on the longshore workers.

Intervention by the employers’ state is never neutral. They claim to speak for the interests of all of us, the “public.” But there is no “us.” There are two classes with sharply counterposed interests — the propertied owners and the millions of workers and farmers.

We need fighting unions to win workers control over conditions on the job, including the power to shut down production in face of any threat to safety — for us, the community and nature.

And they point to the need for our class and its allies to fight to overthrow the rule of capital, as workers and farmers did in Cuba in 1959, and establish workers power.

Organizing the broadest possible solidarity and participation in these labor battles should be the priority for all working people — from joining the oil workers picket lines and rallies to initiating solidarity resolutions in unions and other organizations to raising funds. The upcoming conferences on “The Future of Railroads: Safety, Workers, Community and the Environment” will be a chance for rail workers and others to discuss and organize around many of these questions. And we can build links of solidarity with those involved in social struggles, such as those demanding the arrest of police who killed farmworker Antonio Zambrano-Montes in Pasco, Washington.

NYPD ‘terror’ unit threatens political rights

Continued from page 3

signments. The other, 350 heavily armed officers, would be assigned to counterterror patrols under the department’s Intelligence Division and Counter-Terrorism Bureau.

Over the past decade U.S. police agencies have been stepping up political surveillance operations. Following the al-Qaeda attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon in 2001, 78 “fusion centers” were set up through which federal spy agencies, state police departments, “counterterrorism” Red Squads in major cities, private intelligence outfits and bosses’ factory police share spy data. The information is available to 780,000 cops in 18,000 state, local and tribal agencies.

In Canada, the federal government introduced “anti-terror” Bill C-51 Jan. 30. It makes speech to “promote or advocate” terrorist acts a crime punishable by up to five years in prison. It would make it easier for police to get a warrant to arrest individuals who

have not committed a crime and hold them in custody for up to seven days. A judge could impose a year of house arrest on anyone who “may” commit a terrorist offense, regardless of whether charges have been filed.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service would gain new powers to access buildings to plant surveillance devices, as well as cancel people’s travel arrangements and shut down their bank accounts.

In France, more than 1,000 extra cops and paramilitary forces have been deployed in Paris and authorities are clamping down on the rights of prisoners who are Muslim. Belgian officials announced they have stepped up spying against a number of organizations, declining to identify who or where. U.K. Home Secretary Theresa May announced plans Jan. 29 for more vehicle and passenger searches at border locations.

Katy LeRougetel in Calgary, Alberta, contributed to this article.

Wash. rally: Charge cops who killed worker

Continued from front page

key crops. Zambrano-Montes, 35, was an undocumented worker who came to the region from Mexico a decade ago. He worked as an apple picker until he broke both wrists in a fall from a ladder at work.

More than half of Pasco’s 68,000 residents are Latinos. The police force is overwhelmingly Caucasian.

Eduardo Baca, the Mexican government’s consul in Seattle, wrote a letter to Pasco Police Chief Robert Metzger expressing “deep concern over the unwarranted use of lethal force against an unarmed Mexican national by police officers.”

“Be respectful and nonviolent. This is not about color but human rights,” said a letter from the Zambrano-Montes family read to those at the protest by Maria Madrigal-Zambrano, cousin of Antonio. Marshals were organized to help guide the march.

“Justice for Antonio’s mother would be to prosecute the three that were in the incident, the three that murdered him, the same way they would prosecute a regular citizen or regular human being,” she said.

Berta Zamanedo, a packinghouse worker, carried a sign reading, “Police are murderers with a permit.”

In response to growing outrage over the killing, Franklin County Coroner Dan Blasdel announced Feb. 13 that he will convene a public coroner’s inquest to investigate the shooting. He told the press he hoped to have at least half the six-person panel composed of area Latinos. “The main thing is we don’t want another Ferguson in Pasco,” he told the Associated Press.

Anti-Semitic attack

Continued from front page

kosher grocery in January, killing four, el-Hussein became a partisan of Islamic State in prison. After he said he wanted to go to Syria to fight, the Danish prison service put him under surveillance. After the two attacks, he was killed by Danish police.

El-Hussein first attacked an afternoon seminar Feb. 14 titled “Art, Profanity and Freedom of Expression,” attended by about 50 people at the Krudttonden café. The panel featured Lars Vilks, a Swedish artist who received death threats after depicting the Prophet Mohammed as a dog in 2007; French Ambassador François Zimeray; and Inna Shevchenko, a feminist supporter of *Charlie Hebdo*, the French satirical magazine attacked by Islamists.

Shevchenko was speaking about how some commentators claim to be for free-speech rights, but say they shouldn’t be exercised if they can be seen as insulting Islam. El-Hussein opened fire outside, killing film director Finn Norgaard and injuring three cops.

Around 1 a.m. the following morning el-Hussein attacked Copenhagen’s central synagogue where a bat mitzvah party was taking place. He shot and killed Dan Uzan, a Jewish volunteer guard and wounded two cops.

The first report by the liberal *New York Times* did not mention Jews were targets. Instead, it reported the attacks took place “outside a synagogue.” The article said, “Anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim sentiment is rising in Europe, and although there was no indication who was responsible for the shootings in Copenhagen, Twitter was ablaze with anti-Muslim indictments.”

“Anger of Suspect in Danish Killings Is Seen As Only Loosely Tied to Islam,” the *Times* was still claiming in a headline two days after the attack. But the same article reported how el-Hussein had spoken often about joining Islamic State and fighting in Syria.

And the article reported how a dozen men, their faces covered by scarves, visited the spot where el-Hussein was killed. They shouted “God is great” in Arabic and left a leaflet denouncing Danish police for covering the body of the Jewish security guard with a sheet while leaving el-Hussein’s body uncovered.

Jew-hatred has special place under capitalism

While most acts of Jew-hatred in Europe over the last several years have been carried out by Islamist supporters, along with some by ultra-rightist and white supremacist groups, anti-Semitism continues to raise its ugly head in ruling-class circles as well.

Jew-hatred has a special place under capitalism, escalated by the employers along with promotion of fascist gangs in times of economic crisis. Their goal is to scapegoat Jews in an effort to divert workers and middle class layers from the fight for a popular revolution to overthrow capitalism. Anti-Semitism continuously percolates in capitalist society.

On Feb. 16 Roland Dumas, who was the French foreign minister from 1988 to 1993 under the country’s ruling Socialist Party, was asked if he thought current Foreign Minister Manuel Valls — who has been promoting French imperialism and prettifying the French government’s record against anti-Semitism — is “under Jewish influence.” Valls’ wife, Anne Gravoin, is Jewish. “Everyone is under some influence,” Dumas said. “I can think so, so why not say it?”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is running for reelection, called on European Jews to move to Israel. “Of course, Jews deserve protection in every country, but we say to Jews, to our brothers and sisters: Israel is your home,” he said Feb. 15.

Netanyahu projects himself as the only candidate strong enough to defend Jews around the world.

The pace of Jewish emigration to Israel from France and other European countries has grown, but many choose to remain. “We are Danish and we are staying in Denmark,” Jeppe Juhl, a spokesperson for Jewish organizations there, told Agence France-Presse.

Missing from the debate has been any working-class voice that puts forward the importance of combating Jew-hatred, while supporting the right of Jews to return to Israel and opposing discrimination against Muslims. Rejecting anti-Semitic violence is a life-and-death question for the working-class. No revolutionary movement capable of uniting workers and their allies to fight boss attacks and build a broad social struggle for workers power can be built if the fight against Jew-hatred is not emblazoned on its banner.