

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Cuban Five stand up for Venezuela at Havana event**  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 11 MARCH 30, 2015

## Oil workers strike continues as focus shifts to local talks



Militant

Picket line at BP refinery in Whiting, Ind., March 9. Unionists fighting for safety and to strengthen union on the job are still on strike around contract issues at refineries and chemical plants.

BY ANNE PARKER

WHITING, Ind. — Oil refinery workers remain on the picket lines here and across the country after the United Steelworkers announced March 12 that a tentative agreement had been reached with Shell Oil on a pattern framework for contracts in union-organized refineries. Contract talks have shifted both to other national companies and to local issues at each refinery. No dates have yet been set for votes on contracts.

Oil workers went on strike Feb. 1, their first nationwide strike since 1980, fighting for more hiring, shorter hours, increased rest time and safer working conditions; to bring more maintenance workers into the union;

and to keep the “retrogression clause,” which guarantees gains won in the past would continue.

In a press release the USW said the pattern agreement calls for reviews of staffing levels and status of maintenance workers as well as honoring previous contract agreements.

The four-year contract proposal sets wage increases of 2.5 percent the first year, 3 percent each of the next two, and 3.5 percent the last year. It maintains the current health care program, where the bosses pay 80 percent of the premium.

Meanwhile, picket lines remain at struck facilities and locals continue to

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## ‘Militant’ backs the union, tells the truth about workers’ battles

BY MAGGIE TROWE

“Thank you for supporting the union and keeping the truth about the union in the news,” said Caleb Rabalais, a pipefitter at Shell in Texas City, Texas, as he purchased a copy of the *Militant* March 12, as a tentative agreement on a national contract between Shell and the United Steelwork-

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ers was announced.

The strike, which began Feb. 1, continues, as Steelworkers negotiate local contracts from Anacortes, Washington, to Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

A growing number of oil workers across the country look to the *Militant* not only for accurate reporting on the stakes of the strike and solidarity with their battle to defend safety on the job,

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## Tour backs fight against naval base, US intervention in Korea

BY SETH GALINSKY

Two participants in the fight against the construction of a South Korean naval and submarine base that will also be used by the U.S. military in the village of Gangjeong on Jeju Island on the southern tip of South Korea have begun a U.S. speaking tour to win support. The campaign against the base has become a rallying point against Washington’s decades-long record of trampling on Korean sovereignty and the rights of workers and farmers on the island and U.S. imperialist intervention in the region.

The tour is titled “If You Don’t Give Up, You Can’t Lose” and features two veterans of protests against the base,

## ‘Cuba’s revolution and principles not negotiable’

Women’s delegation speaks at NY events



Militant/Mike Shur

Members of delegation led by Federation of Cuban Women described gains for workers and women from victory of Cuban Revolution and fight against U.S. economic embargo. Panel and audience at March 14 meeting at Fordham Law School.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

NEW YORK — “The Cuban people welcome talks with the U.S. government, on the basis of respect,” said Teresa Amarelle Boué, general secretary of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), at a citywide meeting at Fordham Law School March 14. “The Cuban government has made clear that we maintain our principles, which are not negotiable.”

Amarelle, who is also a member of

Cuba’s National Assembly and Council of State, headed the delegation from the FMC and other Cuban organizations to the United Nations 59th annual Commission on the Status of Women. The commission, held March 9-20, occurred in tandem with events at the U.N. involving more than 1,100 nongovernmental organizations.

Members of the Cuban delegation also took part in activities in New

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## Ukraine workers defend jobs, wages against Kiev gov’t, separatist attacks

BY NAOMI CRAINE AND JOHN STUDER

From the mines and railroads to the country’s largest airport, workers across Ukraine are fighting to defend their jobs and conditions of life and work, in face of attacks by the bosses and their government, spurred by

economic contraction exacerbated by the Moscow-backed separatist war in the east. Many see these struggles as a continuation of what they fought for in the Maidan, the mass popular protest movement against the corruption, brutality and subservience to Moscow of former President Viktor Yanukovich, who was toppled in February 2014. Unionists view the current government in Kiev not as a product of

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

NY McDonald’s workers protest unsafe conditions on the job

Boston union school bus drivers win fight against boss frame-up

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# Anti-Semitic attack at UCLA sparks debate on Jew-hatred

BY SETH GALINSKY

Anti-Semitic remarks at a University of California at Los Angeles student government meeting Feb. 10 — leading to the initial rejection of a candidate for the student court because she is Jewish — have put a spotlight on Jew-hatred in the United States and around the world.

The anti-Semitic remarks were made during an Undergraduate Students Association Council hearing on the appointment of Rachel Beyda to the student Judicial Board.

“Given that you are a Jewish student and very active in the Jewish community,” council member Fabienne Roth asked Beyda, who is a member of Hillel’s campus chapter and president-elect of the Jewish sorority Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi, “how do you see yourself being able to maintain an unbiased view?”

Taken aback, Council President Avinoam Baral told Roth the question was out of order. “I don’t think that’s a question we’d feel comfortable asking other students,” he said.

Then another council delegate asked Beyda if she had any other “political affiliations that could cause a conflict of interest.”

For 40 minutes after Beyda left the room, council members debated whether her faith and affiliations with Jewish groups meant she would automatically be biased. “Even if she is talented,” Roth said, she didn’t think it would be possible for Beyda to leave a legacy that is “not being divisive,” even though “it’s not her fault.”

The council then deadlocked in a 4-4-1 vote on the motion to appoint Beyda.

“What I’m seeing right now is someone potentially being denied a position because they’re Jewish,” Baral told the council after the vote. “I see no other reason.”

UCLA administrator Debra Geller, who advises the students association, intervened and the council reversed its vote, unanimously voting to appoint Beyda to the post.

A week after the vote, the *Daily Bruin*, the student newspaper, printed a letter from Rachel Frenklak, Beyda’s roommate, who was at the hearing. Beyda’s testimony was followed by “a disgusting 40 minutes of what can only be described as unequivocal anti-Semitism during which some of our council members resorted to some of the oldest accusations against Jews, including divided loyalties and dishonesty,” she wrote.

On Feb. 20, after a growing outcry, the four council members who had voted against Beyda apologized in a letter in the *Bruin*. “Our intentions were never to attack, insult or delegitimize the identity of an individual or people,” they claimed.

“A foul odor is in the air,” said a joint reply by David Myers, chair of the history department; Chaim Seidler-Feller, executive director of UCLA Hillel; and Maia Ferdman, a Latin American studies student, in the March 9 *Bruin*. “Their contrition is welcome, but these cases are wake-up calls. As much as we assumed it

## UK communist candidate hails Kurdish women fighters



Militant/Dag Tirsén

MANCHESTER, England — “On March 8 we celebrate the advances made by women around the world. This year we can add the advances made by the Kurds. Today especially we celebrate the role of women in Syria and Iraq fighting to stop Islamic State,” said Catharina Tirsén, Communist League candidate for Manchester City Council in Bradford ward. She was speaking at a meeting of more than 100 Kurdish women and men gathered to celebrate International Women’s Day, organized by the Manchester Kurdish Cultural Centre here.

“Across northern Syria, women comprise more than one-third of the Kurdish fighting forces,” Tirsén said. “I campaign door to door in working-class areas, talking with people and showing them the *Militant* newspaper. And I must say, when you mention the Kurdish women combatants to anyone, especially women, you get a broad smile in response.

“Your fight has strengthened the confidence of workers around the world,” she said. “It gives us the confidence that we, ordinary working people, can fight and change history. We can fight for a homeland, like the Kurdish people are doing. And we can fight for a government of our own, a government of working people, the strongest weapon we can have, as the Cuban Revolution shows.”

— DAG TIRSÉN

to be dead, the Jewish Question lives on.”

The *New York Times* in a March 6 article that brought the incident to national attention noted that there “appears to be a surge of hostile sentiment directed against Jews at many campuses.” The *Times* said it was “often a byproduct of animosity toward the policies of Israel.”

At the council meeting that discussed her candidacy for the board, no one asked Beyda about her opinions of Israel or its policies.

A year earlier the UCLA Judicial Board had taken up a case involving conflict of interest charges filed by the

campus chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine against two council members who had voted on a resolution calling on the college administration to divest from companies that do business in the West Bank after they went on a free trip to Israel.

UCLA Students for Justice in Palestine distanced itself from the anti-Jewish statements made during the recent student council debate. In a Feb. 24 statement, the group said that it “was not involved in the Judicial Board issue and strongly believes in the ability of any student at UCLA, regardless of background, to serve in that or any other position on campus.”

## THE MILITANT

### Back rail workers’ fight for safety

The bosses’ drive for profit has led to increased derailments and explosions of rail cars filled with volatile crude oil, endangering workers and communities. The *Militant* covers rail workers’ fight for safety, including protests against company moves to cut train crews to one person.



Canadian National train carrying crude oil derails near Gogama, Ontario, March 7.

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# Oil workers strike continues

**Continued from front page**  
organize strike solidarity rallies and win support from unions and other working people. The strike includes almost 7,000 workers at 15 refineries and petrochemical plants in seven states.

## Battles at local level

"It doesn't look like we will get a quick settlement at Marathon," Dave Martin, vice president of Steelworkers Local 8-719 on strike at the company's Catlettsburg, Kentucky, refinery told the *Militant*. "At the negotiating session the company refused to agree to no retrogression. They are proposing to take away major things in the contract. We filed unfair labor practice charges and a federal mediator is coming.

"At the hotel where the negotiations took place we had a rally of over 100," Martin said. "We had guys in the front and the back when the company came out for lunch. They huddled at the door and didn't want to come out. We yelled, 'We want a fair contract!' And we were still there when they came back from lunch. They thought we would leave."

"Our biggest concern is that BP proposes to expand the management rights section of the contract to remove the bargaining rights of the local," Dave Danko, president of Steelworkers Local 7-1, representing more than 1,000 BP refinery workers here, told the *Militant*. In clauses like this, the bosses claim sole rights to determine conditions in the refinery. "The company will be able to dictate what we do and eliminate our say over working conditions. They want to make us a union in name only."

"On March 19 we will march in front of BP headquarters in Chicago," Danko

said. "And we are organizing a rally in Whiting followed by a march to the refinery March 27. It will be attended by other unions affected by assaults on workers. All of the locals at area steel mills have been supporting us and they will be at the rally."

"The national agreement addresses many issues better than I thought it would," Michael McFadden, a member of Steelworkers Local 558 at the National Cooperative Refinery Association in McPherson, Kansas, and a member of the National Oil Policy Bargaining Committee, told the *Militant*. "How it will work will be local. There will be some tough battles at the local level."

The Steelworkers say agreements are close at some of the large refineries. Motiva's Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, the largest in the country, is closest, USW spokeswoman Lynne Hancock told the *Houston Chronicle* March 16.

"Marathon in Texas City has offered the national contract, but with extreme concessions, so we're not even close," said Lee Medley, president of Steelworkers Local 13-1 in Texas City, Texas, in an interview with the *Militant*.

At the LyondellBasell refinery in Houston the company broke off negotiations with Steelworkers Local 13-227, claiming the "union needed a cooling off period." Joshua Lege, an officer of the local, told the *Chronicle* that this was a "stalling tactic."

"The strike has galvanized us," Clint Clark, a phenol unit operator and union steward at the Shell refinery in Deer Park, Texas, told the *Militant*. "The company forced us to picket right next to the highway, and they removed our portable toilets from company property. We even confronted a serious union-



Militant/John Naubert

**Steelworkers picket March 16 at entrance to Tesoro refinery in Anacortes, Washington. National oil strike has received international solidarity, including message, inset, from independent union at UMZ rocket plant and Independent Trade Union of Miners in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine. "This national strike is in the vanguard for all workers, setting a great example for resistance and the fight for the defense of labor rights," the unionists wrote. "Be firm in your fight!"**



busting back-to-work campaign.

"We refused to accept a contract unless it included all of our previous gains, like seniority, bidding rights and union safety reps," Clark said. "The solidarity and support we've received on the picket lines, at rallies and in the union hall has been tremendous. We can't do this alone."

Clark said he and some other workers are concerned about the pattern contract language on "staffing" and "fatigue." "It leaves the final decision up to the company," he said.

## 'Strike has united us'

Many workers say they feel stronger because of their experiences in the strike.

"I've worked for nonunion contrac-

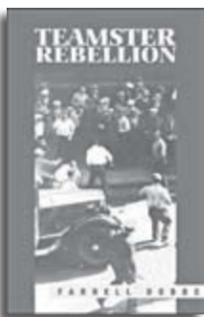
tors before," said Caleb Rabalais, a member of Local 13-1 on strike against Shell in Deer Park. "Sometimes the bosses treat you like you're just a number, not even human. They say, 'If you don't like it, hit the road. There's a long line of people who will take your place.' But now I've seen what it means to have a union to stand up together and defend the safety and dignity of every member."

In Martinez, California, more than 100 people took part in a family day March 14 at the main gate of the Tesoro refinery where Steelworkers Local 5 is on strike. Hot dogs were provided and games for the kids. "We may not have completed the strike yet, but we've accomplished a lot. The strike has united all of us union members in different refineries here," Criff Reyes, a picket captain, told the *Militant*.

"When this is over, we'll have to go to other pickets," John Anderson, a striker at Tesoro in Anacortes, Washington, told the *Militant* March 16. "Look at the farmworkers who have been taken advantage of. We'll have to help them." The bulletin board at Steelworkers Local 12-591 headquarters in Anacortes is covered with solidarity messages from other unions. Members of the local spoke at an International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 19 meeting in Seattle the week before.

*Patti Iiyama, a retired refinery worker in Martinez, California; Mark Simon in Houston; and John Naubert in Anacortes, Washington, contributed to this article.*

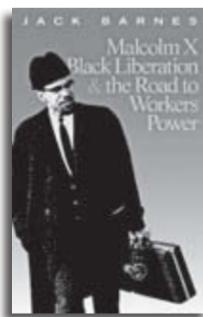
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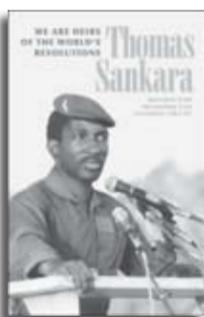
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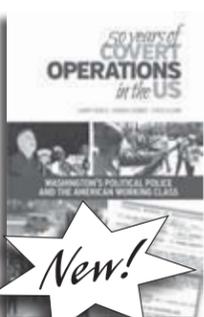
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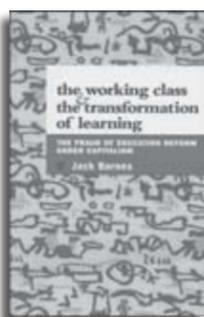
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## United Steelworkers oil strike rallies

**Anacortes, Washington**  
Saturday, March 21, 1 p.m.  
Outside Tesoro refinery gates

## Northwest Indiana

Friday, March 27  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

## Downtown Whiting

Between New York Ave. and Schrage Ave.  
& march to BP Whiting refinery offices to support USW Local 7-1  
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# Ukraine workers fight

Continued from front page  
that movement, but as an obstacle to workers' progress.

"It's important for people to know about our union and about workers' willingness to act," Evgenyi Derkach, a leader of the Independent Trade Union of Labor Protection at the large Yuzhmash rocket factory in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, told the *Militant* in a phone interview March 13. He had just come from a rally of 200 workers in front of the plant demanding months of back pay. "The Ukrainian government says we need to be obedient," he said, in order to get loans from the International Monetary Fund and because of the separatist war in the eastern part of the country. "If the outside world knows about our struggle, it puts pressure on the authorities to take workers' demands more seriously."

"Yesterday I received a military draft notice, even though I'm exempt for health reasons," Derkach said. "I believe it is the government trying to pressure me to back off from the union struggle." Several weeks earlier, anti-union thugs had assaulted him in the street.

"The company understands if there is a free trade union they will lose control," added Alexei Simvolokov, a leader of the Independent Trade Union of Miners in Dnepropetrovsk, who also took part in the Yuzhmash workers' rally. He said a representative of the "official" trade union, which has close ties to management and the state — a throwback to the days when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union — handed out leaflets denouncing the protest.

Threats of more mine closures and unpaid wages have spurred protests by miners across the country. More than 1,000 workers from the seven mines of the state-owned Lvovugol coal company rallied March 5 in Chervonograd, a small city in the

western region of Lviv. The action was part of a week of strikes, road-blocks and other protests demanding back pay, better conditions and a halt to mine closures. Workers suspended the demonstrations after the government came up with funds to pay a substantial part of the back wages.

## Mine blast highlights conditions

"It took the mine disaster in Donetsk to get any action on the part of the government" on miners' unpaid wages, Simvolokov said, referring to a March 4 explosion at the Zasyadko coal mine in that separatist-controlled city. Thirty-four workers were killed.

The Zasyadko mine, owned by billionaire Yuhym Zvyahilsky, an ally of ousted President Yanukovich, is notoriously dangerous. "Why haven't they learned anything from the disaster in 2007 when another 101 hard-working miners were killed? They haven't improved anything!" former miner Yuriy Tkachuk told the *Kiev Post* at the March 7 burial of some of those recently killed there. Separatist officials refused to allow volunteer rescue brigades from government-controlled areas to enter the mine.

After arresting the mine's general director and saying they were considering whether to bring criminal charges against him, officials of the self-proclaimed People's Republic of Donetsk let the bosses reopen the mine.

Despite occasional skirmishes, the cease-fire between Ukrainian government forces on the one side and Russian and separatist fighters on the other is mostly holding. Both sides have pulled back some heavy artillery and released several thousand prisoners taken during months of fighting that left 6,000 dead. Sporadic fighting continues near flashpoints like Debaltseve and Mariupol.

Now that the shelling has subsided, the devastating conditions working people face on both sides of the frontlines comes more to the fore. A new regulation passed by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers March 4 requires

## London rally: 'Release Ukrainian pilot jailed in Russia'



Militant/Anne Howie

LONDON — A couple hundred people — Ukrainians, Russians and others — joined a demonstration outside the Russian Embassy in London March 1 to demand the release of Nadiya Savchenko, Ukrainian helicopter pilot imprisoned in Russia, and to demand prosecution of those who killed Boris Nemtsov, a Russian opposition politician shot down in Moscow two days earlier.

"It's important to show the world is not against ordinary Russians. We have a common enemy," said Nadiya Pylypchuk. She is part of the London Euromaidan group that has organized protests and events in support of the massive popular uprising in Ukraine last year and in defense of Ukrainian sovereignty.

— ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ AND ANNE HOWIE

hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the fighting in the east and by the Russian occupation of Crimea to constantly confirm their actual place of residence, or lose social payments. It is difficult "not to suspect that these new obstructions are deliberate policy, aimed at reducing the cost of providing for displaced people," Halya Coynash wrote in a March 13 article published by the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group.

## Government 'betrays the Maidan'

Workers at the international VIP lounge at the Boryspil International Airport in Kiev went on strike again March 12, following a four-day walk-out in February. They are demanding reinstatement of workers they say were illegally fired and an end to harassment by management, which is pushing to privatize airport operations.

The strikers have a soup kitchen, reminiscent of those set up in the Maidan, with "all the flavors and emotions of the Revolution of Dignity, which gives us strength to fight on," said Benjamin Tymoshenko, vice president of the Trade Union Association of Civil Aviation Flight Personnel, the Confederation of Free Trade Unions reported. He warned that the government was risking its own existence by "betraying the Maidan."

"The situation in the rail sector is very bad as well," Simvolokov told the *Militant*. Rail workers are currently taking the government to court "because they're trying to cut pensions and end the right to early retirement, which they won previously because it's a very dangerous job," he said. "They're also trying to get one person to do the work of two," something rail workers in North America are quite familiar with.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**New Stage in Defense of the Cuban Revolution.** Speaker: volunteer at Pathfinder stall at this year's international book fair in Havana. Sat., March 28, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Tel.: (09) 636-3231.

## —CALENDAR—

### NEW YORK

#### New York

**Absolved by Solidarity: Prison paintings of Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five.** Opening event: Sat., April 11, 7 p.m., reception, 6 p.m. Speakers: Live message from Antonio Guerrero; representative of Cuban Mission to U.N.; Alejandro Molina, May 30 Coalition to Free Oscar López. Exhibit through May 3, 4 p.m.-9 p.m. daily. *The Clemente, LES Gallery, ground floor, 107 Suffolk St.*

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**Exhibit of 'I Will Die the Way I've Lived': Paintings by Antonio Guerrero, One of Recently Freed Cuban Five.** March 7-April 7. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. *Musicians Association of Seattle, Local 76-493, AFM, 3209 Eastlake Ave. E. Email: guerreroexhibit@gmail.com.*

# 'Militant' tells the truth about workers' battles

## Continued from front page

stronger regulation of work hours and union representation for maintenance workers in the refineries, but for a working-class perspective on other questions — from the importance of the fight against Jew-hatred to the example of the Cuban Revolution.

In Martinez, California, where the

Steelworkers are on strike against Tesoro, 11 oil workers have subscribed to the *Militant*, 60 have bought single copies and two bought books — *Absolved by Solidarity*, featuring paintings and commentary by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five; and *Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon. The latter title outlines the revolutionary program of the working class, as presented on the witness stand by Cannon, then national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, during the 1941 frame-up trial of leaders of the Minneapolis labor movement and the SWP for "seditious conspiracy."

During a visit to New York of a leadership delegation of the Federation of Cuban Women to speak at the United Nations and at a number of community events, several subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold, as well as 20 copies of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*, five copies of *Women and Revolution* and a range of other Pathfinder titles.

*Militant* distributors around the world are stepping up efforts to sell subscriptions to workers and farmers

involved in labor and social struggles, and are organizing teams to knock on doors in working-class neighborhoods in cities and small towns, in preparation for a spring drive to boost circulation.

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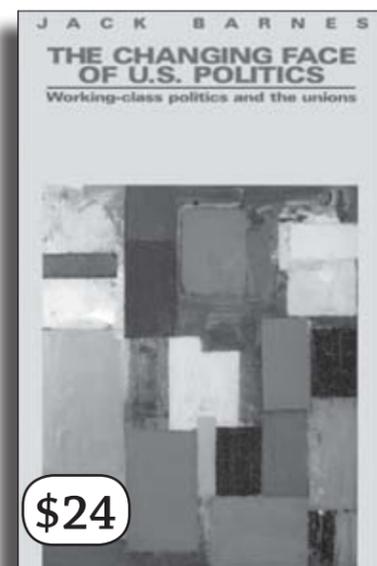
## What Will Changes With Cuba Mean for U.S.-Cuba Relations?

### Panelists:

**Hendrik van den Berg**, professor, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; **Rebecca Williamson**, Socialist Workers Party; **Frances Mendenhall**, recent visitor to Cuba, advocate for Code Pink; **Dan Schlitt**, advocate for fair treatment for Cuba

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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 unfolding today. One example is the \$15 an hour movement of fast-food workers, who are planning actions across the country April 15. If you are involved in one of those demonstrations, or know someone who is, 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

### NY McDonald's workers protest unsafe conditions on the job

NEW YORK — "Safety! Respect! More money in my check!" chanted some 50 McDonald's workers and their supporters, part of the Fight for \$15 movement, as they marched and rallied at the restaurant across from the Empire State Building here March 17. The action was called to focus public attention on unsafe working conditions they face and to publicize April 15 actions planned by fast-food workers nationwide.

Marie Yolanda Jean-Louis, 65, who works at McDonald's in Nanuet, New York, spoke at the rally about hazardous work on the griddle. She was one of several workers who carried posters with photos of burns they sustained at work.

"We're fighting for \$15 an hour and a union and a first-aid kit," Rosa Rivera told the rally. "The bosses tell you to put ketchup or mustard on a burn."

Protesters carried placards reading, "Cover it up and get back to work." McDonald's workers in 19 cities recently filed complaints with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration about burns and safety problems on the job.

"Just because we work for a fast-food company doesn't mean we don't need sufficient income to pay the bills," Elizabeth Rene, 25, who works at a nearby McDonald's and is part of Fight for \$15, told the *Militant*. "We believe in it, and we will win."

—Maggie Trowe

### Boston union school bus drivers win fight against boss frame-up

BOSTON — "Not guilty" was the jury's verdict March 5 after deliberating for only 10 minutes on frame-up charges against Steve Kirschbaum, grievance committee chairperson of United Steelworkers Local 8751. The union represents some 700 Boston school bus drivers. Kirschbaum faced charges of trespassing and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon — a table.

The charges stemmed from a rally

and union meeting held June 30, 2014, the last day of the contract, between Veolia (now known as Transdev) and the union.

Angela Griffin, Transdev's assistant branch manager, alleged she was assaulted when union members led by Kirschbaum entered the drivers' room inside company headquarters that workers have unlimited access to, according to the contract. Charges against Kirschbaum were filed three days later.

Photographs and a video presented by the defense showed Griffin as well as Boston police and union members together on company property with no signs of turmoil.

Nearly 100 drivers and supporters attended the three-day trial in Dorchester District Court.

"The company charged him for nothing!" driver Jean Paulas told the *Militant*.

Vice President Steve Gillis, Recording Secretary Andre Francois, steward and former Local President Garry Murchison and Kirschbaum were fired for supposedly instigating an "illegal strike" in October 2013. The union is fighting to get them reinstated.

"The four leaders need to come back to work," said Paulas.

Bus drivers continue to work without a contract. The union rejected the company's proposal for a negotiating session March 3, the day the trial opened.

—Ted Leonard and Sarah Ullman

### Chicago Teamsters win contract after six-month strike

CHICAGO — Workers at Golan's Moving and Storage in Skokie, Illinois, just north of here, won a six-month fight for a contract in early February.

Workers voted 85 percent for representation by Teamsters Local 705 in December 2013, and went on strike seven months later because of Golan's refusal



Militant/Maggie Trowe

McDonald's workers rally in New York March 17 carrying placards with photos of injuries and burns suffered on the job and publicizing April 15 nationwide fast-food workers' actions.

to negotiate. Workers won a \$1.75 raise for the first year of the contract, driver Paul Rubi told the *Militant*.

"The biggest gain is that workers will be paid for all work performed," said driver Alfonso Arizmendi. Before the strike Golan's required workers to inspect trucks and travel to and from job sites on their own time, he said, often amounting to several unpaid hours a day.

There is now a grievance procedure, Arizmendi said, and punitive suspensions and wage deductions ended.

Workers picketed for six months. They had barbecues on the picket line and a solidarity rally in August. They tailed strikebreakers' trucks and picketed their workplaces, and won the support of unions, churches and synagogues, as well as residents and local businesses.

Nearly 90 workers were on strike, including new hires and veterans. They convinced a number of strikebreakers to quit and join the picket lines.

Rubi started working at Golan's two weeks before the walkout. The company handed out leaflets saying employees could come to work if there was a strike. "I told them 'You put me in a very difficult position, because I can't cross the picket line. I'm a union guy,'" he told the *Militant*. "I joined the picket line."

—Ilona Gersh

### Teaching assistants strike at two Toronto universities

TORONTO — Some 7,000 teaching graduates, research assistants and contract faculty at the University of Toronto went on strike Feb. 28, and 3,700 walked

out at York University three days later. The workers at these universities, the two largest in Canada, are organized by the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

An increasing amount of university teaching is done by teaching assistants, about 60 percent at the University of Toronto, according to the union.

At each campus about 1,000 contract faculty — nontenured instructors who work on a course-by-course contract renewed each semester — recently approved agreements, but teaching and research assistants voted them down and remain on strike.

The graduate student teaching assistants are fighting for a wage increase. The university guarantees them only \$15,000 per year (US\$11,735), well below official poverty levels.

Some 250 strikers and supporters attended a solidarity rally at York's main entrance March 12 where Ontario Federation of Labour President Sid Ryan and others spoke.

Some departments at York are restarting classes, canceled at the start of the strike. The University of Toronto administration is encouraging teaching assistants to resume teaching, graduate student Matt Hamilton told the *Militant*.

At the University of Toronto picket line, graduate student Colin Rose criticized a "university system that relies heavily on underpaid teachers."

"This is a systemic problem at universities across the country and it is not going to stop here," he said.

—Tony Di Felice and Susan Berman

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 30, 1990

On March 5 the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a sweeping decision that provoked little public debate or outcry. The ruling virtually eliminates a person's right of appeal to federal courts to review the constitutionality of state criminal convictions. This right was made law by Congress in 1867 during the period of "radical reconstruction" when the struggle of freed slaves and their supporters helped extend many democratic rights.

For death row inmates the consequences are devastating. The ruling will guarantee and quicken the execution of many of the 2,500 inmates on death row in state prisons across the United States, whose cases are in various stages of appeal to federal courts.



March 29, 1965

MARCH 24 — The march from Selma to Montgomery is a significant victory for the Negro freedom movement. The right to hold this protest march was won over the opposition not only of Sheriff Clark, state storm-trooper commander Lingo and Governor Wallace, but over the opposition of the federal government which at first brought all sorts of pressure, including a court injunction, to prevent it.

The militancy of the Alabama Negroes, and the unprecedented wave of demonstrations throughout the country supporting them and putting the heat on the federal government, finally forced Johnson to permit the march and to send federal troops to protect it.



March 30, 1940

Events of the last few days indicate that we have reached a new stage in the struggle against the war. Among these events are:

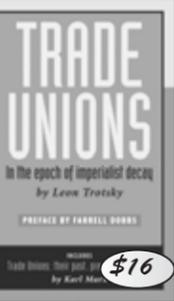
Replacement of the Daladier government by a bourgeois-"socialist" coalition government.

A secret trial for the 44 Stalinist deputies in Paris — the first time in French history that a political case has been heard in secret.

Resolution of the British national convention of the National Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, a union of 175,000 members, that Britain's war "is an imperialist war fought for the defense of British and French colonial possessions. The working class has no interest in supporting it."

## TRADE UNIONS in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay

by Leon Trotsky



"More food for thought (and action) than will be found in any book on the union question."

—FARRELL DOBBS

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# Cuba spurned FBI bid to swap Assata Shakur for Cuban Five

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Former FBI Director Louis Freeh recently revealed that the agency tried unsuccessfully in 1998 to swap some or all of the Cuban Five for Assata Shakur, a former Black Panther who was granted political asylum in Cuba in 1984.

In two interviews with the North Bergen, New Jersey, *Record*, Freeh demanded Cuba extradite Shakur now.

Shortly before the attempted swap, the U.S. government had arrested the Cuban Five — Gerardo Hernández, René González, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and Antonio Guerrero — in South Florida on trumped-up charges, including conspiracy to commit espionage, because of their actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution. The Five were railroaded to jail and served 14 to 16 years in U.S. prisons.

René González returned to Cuba in May 2013 and Fernando González in February 2014. Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero were released in December 2014 in exchange for the release of a U.S. spy of Cuban origin, as the two countries announced steps to resume diplomatic relations.

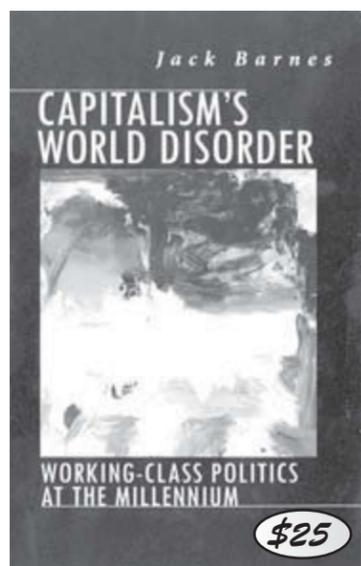
Freeh told the *Record* that shortly after the arrests, with the agreement of then-Attorney General Janet Reno, he sent a message through a third party to the Cuban government proposing Washington release one or more of the Five in exchange for Cuba's return of Shakur, the paper reported in a Feb. 28 article.

What was the Cuban government's answer? "The response was no response," Freeh told the *Record*.

Shakur, formerly Joanne Chesimard, was active in the Black Panther Party in the late 1960s and later in a group called the Black Liberation Army. On May 2, 1973, the car she was traveling in was stopped by cops on the New Jersey Turnpike and a shootout took place. Shakur was gravely wounded. The FBI claimed she shot two troopers, wounding James Harper and killing Werner Foerster. Zayd Shakur, who was in the car with her, was shot and killed by Harper.

Shakur was charged with killing Foerster and Zayd Shakur. At the trial her lawyers presented physical evidence that she hadn't fired a weapon and was shot with her hands in the air.

## For further reading



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In 1977 she was found guilty on eight counts, including first- and second-degree murder, by a jury that included no African-Americans. She was sentenced to life plus 33 years. Two years later she escaped from prison.

Since the announcement last December that Cuba and the U.S. would seek to reestablish diplomatic relations, some capitalist politicians and media have insisted Washington press for Shakur's extradition, including a *Washington Times* editorial Dec. 29 titled "U.S. Must Demand Cuba Return Cop-Killer Assata Shakur." New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie sent a letter to President Barack Obama urging him to make Shakur's return to the U.S. a condition for establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Josefina Vidal, head of the North American Bureau of Cuba's Foreign Ministry and the leader of Cuba's delegation negotiating with the U.S., responded to a question from the press Dec. 22 by making it clear Cuba's revolutionary government had no intention of sending Shakur back to the U.S. "Every nation has sovereign and legitimate rights to grant political asylum to people it considers to have been persecuted," she said.

Shakur was put on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list in 2013, with a \$2 million bounty on her head, half from the FBI and half from the state of New Jersey. She is the only woman on the list of 30 individuals, all except her connected with al-Qaeda and other jihadist organizations.

## US tour builds solidarity for 43 'disappeared' in Mexico

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hundreds of thousands have joined protests in scores of cities and towns across Mexico, and hundreds in the U.S. as well, demanding the Mexican government reveal the truth about the "disappearance" of 43 student activists from the Teachers College in Ayotzinapa at the hands of the police last year. The students were preparing to attend a demonstration in Mexico City to commemorate the massacre by soldiers and police of students at a protest there in 1968.

On March 16 a delegation of 12, including family members of the 43 students, some of their classmates and human rights activists, began a speaking tour of the United States with meetings in San Antonio, El Paso and McAllen, Texas, to win solidarity and support for their fight to get out the truth.

Divided into three caravans — one each for the West Coast, East Coast and the South and Midwest — they will visit more than 40 U.S. cities over the next month.

"The 43 students are the face of the tens of thousands of disappeared in Mexico," Julio César Guerrero, national coordinator of the caravans, told the *Militant* from San Antonio, March 17. "They are an illustration of the impunity and violence in Mexico.

"We are organizing this tour so the family members and students can speak their mind," Guerrero said. "We have unions, students from the universities,

## Cuban 5 stand up for Venezuela at Havana event



Photos by Roberto Ruiz/Juventud Rebelde

"A crime against Venezuela is a crime against Latin America," said René González, speaking for the Cuban Five, who were present at a March 15 "We're all Venezuela" concert at the University of Havana that attracted thousands of people protesting U.S. threats and sanctions against Venezuela. Alí Rodríguez, inset, Venezuelan Ambassador to Cuba, also spoke, thanking the Cuban people and their revolutionary leadership for "extraordinary solidarity" with the Venezuelan people.

On March 9 President Barack Obama declared Venezuela a "national security threat," deepening sanctions against the country, and ordered additional restrictions against seven officials, blocking or freezing their property and interests in the United States and denying them entry. The two countries have not had full diplomatic representation since 2008, though the U.S. remains Venezuela's largest trading partner, and Venezuela is the fourth-largest supplier of crude petroleum to the U.S.

There are tens of thousands of Cuban medical personnel throughout Venezuela, and Caracas supplies Cuba with the majority of its crude oil at heavily discounted prices.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez visited Caracas March 14 to show the Cuban Revolution's solidarity with Venezuela. The time for the U.S. "to treat Latin America like its backyard has ended," he said. "The U.S. government needs to understand that it can't handle Cuba with a carrot nor Venezuela with a stick."

— MAGGIE TROWE

people from the churches and even sympathetic politicians coming together."

The students were attacked by the municipal police in Iguala, Mexico, on Sept. 26, 2014. Two were shot and killed by cops and masked gunmen that night and the tortured body of another student was found the next day. The police captured 43 of the students who have not been seen since. Three other people were killed by the cops: a bystander and two people traveling from a soccer game when the cops mistook their bus for one carrying the teaching students.

The Mexican government claims the case has been solved. They blame it all on the corrupt, drug-trafficker-infiltrated local governments and police forces of Iguala and the nearby town of Cocula who they say turned the 43 over to a drug gang, which killed them and burned their bodies. The government says they have arrested almost everyone involved. Case closed.

But classmates and families of the 43, as well as local human rights groups — with a well-founded skepticism about the government investigation — initiated protests, demanding, "You took them away alive, we want them back alive!"

They point to inconsistencies in the government's explanations. They note that only one of the burned bodies has been confirmed to be a disappeared student. And they question the role of the army detachment posted in the area, which knew about the attack, but did

nothing to stop it. On the contrary, the surviving students say, soldiers blocked students from getting medical help right after the police attack, telling them to "suck it up."

The tour will conclude with the entire delegation coming to New York City in mid-April. Along with public meetings and demonstrations, caravan participants will be taking their fight to the United Nations, Amnesty International and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

For more information on the tour visit [www.caravana43.com](http://www.caravana43.com).



AP Photo/The Monitor/Joel Martinez

March in McAllen, Texas, March 17, at start of U.S. tour of family members and classmates of 43 student activists "disappeared" by police in Mexico in September last year.

# Cuban women speak in NY

Continued from front page

York and northern New Jersey that provided an opportunity for hundreds of people to learn about the living example of Cuba's socialist revolution.

The FMC leaders spoke about the new stage in the fight against Washington's more than half-century effort to overturn the Cuban Revolution, announced Dec. 17 at simultaneous press conferences by Cuban President Raúl Castro in Havana and U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington. The presidents each reported that three remaining members of the Cuban Five — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero — had returned to Cuba that day after being imprisoned in the U.S. for more than 16 years for their defense of the Cuban Revolution and that talks would open on restoring diplomatic relations, severed by the U.S. government 54 years ago.

The New York-area meetings provided the Cubans an opportunity to become more familiar with the conditions and struggles of working people here. Events included meetings in Newark, New Jersey, with students at Essex County College and with the People's Organization for Progress; a program at a Bronx church with family members of people killed by the police who have been leading protests against cop brutality; a visit to a shelter in Brooklyn for women facing domestic violence; and a reception at City Hall with a deputy mayor and other city officials.

In addition to leaders of the FMC, the delegation included representatives of the National Union of Cuban Jurists, Women's International Democratic Federation, Cuban United Nations Association, National Center for Sex Education, and Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba.

## Gains possible because of revolution

The U.N. commission marked the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and focused on steps since then to meet goals set there to advance women's rights.

At a March 13 panel at the U.N. organized by the Cuban delegation, Yamila González Ferrer of the National Union of Cuban Jurists pointed to progress in Cuba in involving women in all aspects of social and political life. Women in Cuba today comprise 48 percent of the civilian labor force, two-thirds of technicians, and 60 percent of doctors, she said. Nearly half of National Assembly members are women. In 2003 maternity leave was extended to allow either parent to take off up to a year at 60 percent of their income.

These gains, reported by delegation members throughout their visit, "would not be possible without the Cuban Revolution," FMC General Secretary Amarelle told the Fordham meeting.

## 'Respect our sovereignty'

At all the events, the Cuban leaders discussed the talks now underway between Washington and Havana.

Cuba welcomes the talks, but "demands respect for our sovereignty and our social programs," Ana Milagro Martínez of the Cuban United Nations Association, told the People's Organization for Progress March 12. "We

won't allow any power to interfere in our domestic situation."

She invited the audience to "join us in the struggle against the blockade" — the economic, political and travel restrictions that Washington has maintained against Cuba for more than five decades — and said that "Cuba must be taken off the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism."

Washington has made "a change in tactics but the goal is the same," to destroy the Cuban Revolution, Isabel Moya, director of the FMC publishing house Editorial Mujer, said at the Fordham meeting.

Since the 19th century the U.S. rulers have "viewed Cuba as their backyard, intervening when Cuba won independence from Spain" and ever since, Moya said. "Up to this day they maintain a naval base at Guantánamo, against the express wishes of the Cuban people. We're in the process of re-establishing diplomatic relations, but real normalization is much further away."

The fact that Washington has to negotiate today "is a victory of the Cuban people," she added.

Some 150 people attended the March 14 public meeting, sponsored by the July 26th Coalition, Casa de las Americas and Fordham Law School chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. Eight members of the Cuban delegation took part.

A participant asked about stepped-up U.S. threats against Venezuela. "Dialogue between U.S. and Cuba won't affect in the slightest the relations of solidarity we have with the Venezuelan government and people," said Maritzel González of the FMC's international relations department. She pointed to a recent Cuban government statement denouncing U.S. sanctions against Caracas. "Our principles are not for sale, our revolution is not negotiable."

"The Cuban Revolution has a vocation of internationalism," said Yanira Kúper, head of the FMC international relations department, in response to a question about Cuba's role in the fight against Ebola. "A reinforcement contingent went to fight Ebola" in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, she said, but there were already Cuban doctors and nurses providing care in those West African countries. Of the 30,000 Cuban medical workers in volunteer missions today, 64 percent are women, she added.

Delegation members also answered questions about efforts by the FMC, other Cuban organizations, and the revolution's leadership to combat remaining discrimination and prejudice in Cuba based on race, sex or sexual orientation.

## Exchange with cop brutality fighters

Iris Baez, a leader in the fight against police brutality in New York since her son Anthony Baez was killed in a police chokehold in 1994, read a letter to the Fordham meeting that she sent to the mothers of the Cuban Five congratulating them on their victory.

"My heart is singing," Baez wrote Dec. 17, the day Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero returned to Cuba. "It gives me great strength and greater love to see my brothers walk free," Baez said.



Militant photos by Mike Baumann

March 15 panel of Cuban representatives and fighters against police brutality in U.S., held at church in the Bronx. From left, Hawa Bah, Tanya Brown-Dickerson, Ariel Hernández of Cuba's U.N. mission, Maritzel González of Federation of Cuban Women, translator Sergio Gómez and Juanita Young. Inset, audience at event.



Hawa Bah, whose son was killed by the New York police two years ago, and Cynthia Howell, whose aunt died in a raid on her apartment that police later said was the wrong address, also spoke.

The next day Baez hosted a meeting at her church in the Bronx where family members of victims of cop killings joined a panel along with Maritzel González of the FMC and Ariel Hernández, first secretary of Cuba's U.N. mission.

Bah described how her son Mohamed Bah was shot to death when she called an ambulance because he was ill and police showed up instead. Tanya Brown-Dickerson, a school bus driver from Philadelphia, said her son Brandon Tate-Brown was beaten and shot to death by cops there Dec. 15. Shelia Reid, mother of Jerame Reid, killed by police in Bridgeton, New Jersey, also spoke along with her son Sean. Their family has organized several protests since Jerame's death in December.

Juanita Young, active in the fight since her son Malcolm Ferguson was killed in 2000, said, "I've been doing this for 15 years and the stories keep

getting worse." She participated along with Baez last October in an event of more than 200 demanding freedom for the Cuban Five. She welcomed the FMC delegation and said that even with the victory of the Five, "I would still like to meet their mothers."

"While listening to these mothers I was recalling events from our history," González responded. Before 1959, during the fight to overturn the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista regime, "every day people in Havana woke to find youth killed in the streets by the dictatorship. Of course the mothers couldn't just cry. Some joined the revolutionary struggle."

After the revolution won, the U.S. government supported counterrevolutionary acts that took many lives, she said. These attacks happened "because we wanted to determine our destiny, because we made a socialist revolution 90 miles from the United States."

Before leaving New York, the Cuban delegation is also scheduled to speak at John Jay College and meet with the executive board of Service Employees International Union Local 1199.

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# Capitalists' private interests collide with needs of billions

Below is a selection from An Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory by Ernest Mandel, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for March. The book explains the contradictions inherent in capitalism since its revolutionary emergence out of small-scale commodity production, such as the concentration of wealth in fewer and fewer hands, economic crises caused by overproduction, the tendency of the average rate of profit to fall, and the worldwide growth of the working class, the force capable of overthrowing this declining social system. The excerpts are subtitled "Origins of the Capitalist Mode of Production" and "The Fundamental Contradiction in the Capitalist System and the Periodic Crises of Overproduction" from the chapter "Capital and Capitalism." Copyright © 1969 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Militant/Martín Koppel

Demonstration Oct. 28, 2014, by 300 garment workers from Ha-Meem Sportswear factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh, demanding the reopening of the plant closed two weeks earlier.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ERNEST MANDEL

What are the origins of the capitalist mode of production? What are the origins of capitalist society as it has developed over the past 200 years?

They lie first of all in the separation of the producers from their means of production. Subsequently, it is the establishment of these means of pro-

duction as a monopoly in the hands of a single social class, the bourgeoisie. And finally, it is the appearance of another social class which has been separated from its means of production and therefore has no other resources for its subsistence than the sale of its labor-power to the class which has monopolized the means of production. ...

Capitalism has the tendency to extend production without limits, to extend its arena of activity over the whole world, to view all human beings as potential customers. (Parenthetically, there is a pretty contradiction worth stressing, one which Marx already mentioned: each capitalist always likes to see other capitalists increase the wages of their workers, because the wages of those workers are purchasing power for the goods of the capitalist in question. But he cannot allow the wages of his own workers to increase, for this would obviously reduce his own profit.)

The world is consequently structured in a most extraordinary way,

having become an economic unit with an interdependence of its different parts which is extremely sensitive. You know all the clichés which have been used to depict this: if someone sneezes on the New York Stock Exchange, 10,000 peasants are ruined in Malaya.

Capitalism produces an extraordinary interdependence in incomes and a unification in tastes for all human beings. Man has suddenly become conscious of the wealth of human possibilities, whereas in precapitalist society, he was enclosed in the narrow natural possibilities of a single region. In the Middle Ages, pineapples were not eaten in Europe, only locally grown fruits, but today we eat fruits which may have been produced anywhere in the world and are even beginning to eat fruits from China and India which we were not accustomed to eating prior to the second world war.

There are consequently mutual links being established among products and among men. Expressed in other terms, there is a *progressive*

socialization of all economic life, which is becoming a single assemblage, a single fabric. But this whole movement of interdependence is simply centered in an insane way around private property, private appropriation, by a small number of capitalists whose private interests, moreover, collide more and more with the interests of the billions of human beings included in this assemblage.

It is in the economic crises that the contradiction between the progressive socialization of production and the private appropriation which serves as its driving power and its support, breaks out in the most extraordinary way. For capitalist economic crises are incredible phenomena like nothing ever seen before. They are not crises of *scarcity*, like all precapitalist crises; they are crises of *overproduction*. The unemployed die of hunger not because there is too little to eat but because there is relatively too great a supply of foodstuffs.

At first sight the thing seems incomprehensible. How can anyone die because there is a surplus of food, because there is a surplus of goods? But the mechanism of the capitalist system makes this seeming paradox understandable. Goods which do not find buyers not only do not realize their surplus-value but they do not even return their invested capital. The slump in sales therefore forces businessmen to suspend their operations. They are therefore forced to lay off their workers. And since the laid-off workers have no reserves, since they can subsist only when they are selling their labor-power, unemployment obviously condemns them to the starkest poverty and precisely because the relative abundance of goods has resulted in a slump in sales.

The factor of periodic economic crises is inherent in the capitalist system and remains . . . Crises are the clearest manifestation of the fundamental contradiction in the system and a periodic reminder that it is condemned to die sooner or later. But it will never die automatically. It will always be necessary to give it a conscious little push to effect its demise, and it is our job, the job of the working class movement, to do the pushing.

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*March* **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

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## US hands off Venezuela! No sanctions!

Workers here and around the world should raise their voice in opposition to President Barack Obama's executive order declaring "a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Venezuela" and imposing further sanctions.

The propertied rulers in the U.S. are especially upset that since Hugo Chávez was elected president in 1998, Venezuela has maintained close relations and extended support and aid to revolutionary Cuba. Every U.S. administration since has worked to bring down the Bolivarian government in Venezuela, backing the failed military coup in 2002 and other efforts to overthrow Chávez and used every opportunity to demonize the government.

The Venezuelan government further angered Washington and Wall Street when it launched PetroCaribe in 2005, providing Cuba and 13 other Caribbean countries with oil at preferential prices and weakening the stranglehold of the U.S. oil barons. When Venezuela helped launch the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in 2011, as a counter to U.S. efforts to continue imposing its will on the governments and peoples of Latin America, it deepened Washington's determination to topple the regime.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, in Caracas on the eve of an emergency meeting of the Bo-

livarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America in response to Washington's threats, hit the nail on the head when he declared the time for the U.S. "to treat Latin America like its backyard has ended."

Since 1959, when Cuban workers and farmers made a revolution 90 miles from U.S. shores, the propertied rulers' state policy here has been to overthrow the Cuban government. Washington will never stop trying to dominate the economies and bully the governments of countries in this hemisphere, especially those that resist its dictates.

Washington hopes its economic and political pressure and threats of further sanctions, exacerbating the deepening economic crisis in Venezuela, will enable the pro-U.S. opposition parties there to unseat the government of Nicolás Maduro and end its collaboration with Cuba. The U.S. rulers have proven time and again that they don't respect Venezuela's — or anyone's — sovereignty.

Washington's foreign policy grows out of its domestic policy — to make workers pay so the U.S. rulers can maintain their capitalist system and its profits.

We agree with the Cuban government, which said last week, "Nobody has the right to intervene in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. ... Just like Cuba was never alone, Venezuela won't be either."

Working people in the U.S. and elsewhere should join revolutionary Cuba in demanding, "U.S. hands off Venezuela!" and "No to sanctions!"

## Tour backs fight against naval base in SKorea

Continued from front page

tains control over South Korean troops in the event of war.

When completed the naval base would accommodate 20 warships simultaneously and up to two 150,000-ton cruisers. Small farmers and fishermen on the island — worried about losing their land and livelihoods — have spearheaded the fight against the base, which has won the support of a wide variety of environmental and religious groups. The base is scheduled to be completed at the end of this year.

"There has been an influx of U.S. troops to South Korea" as part of Washington's "pivot to Asia," Juyeon Rhee, a national coordinator of the tour, told the *Militant* March 13. "They had cut the number to 25,000 but now it's back up to almost 30,000." Rhee is a board member of the Korea Policy Institute.

The fleet and military units at the base are intended to engage "potential threats from North Korea" and "maritime disputes in the South China Sea," according to Yonhap News. These are euphemisms for conflicts with both Tokyo, former colonial occupier of Korea, and China, just 300 miles away.

As part of these efforts, Washington and South Korean forces, along with military units from France, the U.K., Australia and Canada, launched military exercises called Key Resolve and Foal Eagle March 2 that are scheduled to last until April 24.

### Long history of struggle

Working people on Jeju Island have a long history of struggle going back to the division of Korea into North and South by Washington after the end of World War II in collaboration with the Stalinist regime in Moscow. U.S. occupation forces imposed a military government, drawing on officials from the hated former Japanese colonial administration.

Widespread dissatisfaction with the U.S. military occupation exploded on Jeju Island in March 1947 in a demonstration fired on by U.S.-controlled cops, killing six people. The police assault provoked a general strike there.

Popular resistance led to an armed uprising in Jeju in April 1948. The following month Washington staged rigged elections in South Korea, installing Syngman Rhee as president. His first act was to brutally crush the rebellion in Jeju. Hundreds of villages were razed.

The South Korean government admitted in 1995

that more than 14,000 people were killed, but some historians say as many as 30,000 died out of a population of 300,000 on the island. It was one of many massacres carried out by the U.S.-backed dictatorship in the South.

In 1950 Washington poured tens of thousands of troops and dropped hundreds of thousands of bombs to try to crush the advance by Korean forces from the north, backed by many in the south, fighting to reunify the country. The 1950-53 U.S. war against Korea ended in a stalemate, the first ever defeat of U.S. imperialism.

"Everyone involved in the struggle against the base sees the connections to the previous rebellions and massacres," Juyeon Rhee said. "They know that every time you stand up to the government they accuse you of being a communist."

Opponents of the base also point out the consequences of its construction for the environment. "UNESCO has designated the island as a world heritage site because of its unique features," Rhee added. "The base threatens that."

Farmers, fishermen and others charged for joining the protests face the choice of imprisonment or fines, which now total some \$400,000. The tour will raise money to help villagers continue the fight.

The tour is sponsored by Peaceworkers, the Korea Policy Institute and the Channing & Popei Liem Education Foundation. For more information go to [www.savejejunow.org](http://www.savejejunow.org).

### 'If You Don't Give Up, You Can't Lose' Oppose Jeju Island, SKorea, naval base

Hear: Hee Eun Park and Paco Michelson

See film: 'Gureombi — The Wind Is Blowing'

#### U.S. tour schedule:

Boston, March 17-19

Maine, March 19-21

New York City, March 21-25

New Brunswick, New Jersey, March 25

Philadelphia, March 26-28

Washington, D.C., March 28-30

Los Angeles and San Diego, March 30-April 4

San Francisco Bay Area, April 4-9

Seattle, April 9-12

Portland, Oregon, April 12-20.

For more information visit: [www.savejejunow.org](http://www.savejejunow.org)

## Volunteers boost sales of revolutionary books

BY NICK CASTLE

Volunteers who help get books published by Pathfinder Press on revolutionary working-class politics into libraries, bookstores, museums and college classrooms are well into a new spring effort. The drive, which began in mid-January and runs through mid-June, has a goal of getting 100 new orders. Special focus is on Pathfinder's most recent book, *Absolved by Solidarity/Absueltos por la Solidaridad*, the second set of watercolors by Antonio Guerrero, one of three members of the Cuban Five released in December after more than 16 years in U.S. prisons for their efforts to defend the Cuban Revolution.

The drive builds on a successful fall effort by more than 40 volunteers in 15 cities in the United States and Canada. A newly opened bookstore in Twin Cities, Minnesota, dedicated to titles on social justice ordered more than 100 books. A Chicago store that hadn't purchased any Pathfinder titles in many years placed an order totaling more than \$600. In total, volunteers placed 90 new orders last fall, five over their goal.

The victory winning freedom for the Cuban Five and decisions by the U.S. and Cuban governments to open discussions on re-establishing diplomatic relations, as well as widespread coverage on Cuba's internationalist leadership in fighting Ebola in Africa, have spurred interest in Pathfinder's many titles on the Cuban Revolution.

Volunteers in Greensboro, North Carolina, made their first sale in years to an independent bookstore after showing the owner clippings from the *New York Times* on Cuba. Among the books the owner bought were *Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five; I Will Die the Way I've Lived; and The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should be Free* — all titles on the successful fight to free the Five.

As protests spread across the country against cop killings of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in Staten Island, New York, volunteers stepped up efforts to promote *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. As a result, the book sold significantly more than in the preceding spring sales effort.

Broadening availability of this book remains a priority in the current effort. Recently, a New York museum that specializes in Black history and politics bought 10 copies in English and six in Arabic as part of an order for Black History Month.

A large bookstore in Washington, D.C., featured *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* in its February newsletter. The book "is getting lots of attention and is the most popular book in this newsletter (per the number of clicks)," the bookstore's buyer told Pathfinder volunteers. "Spread the word to your colleagues."

Many of Pathfinder's titles address key questions in today's political struggles. *50 Years of Covert Operations in the US* explains the history of U.S. government spying and attacks against socialists and unionists. *The Jewish Question and Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It* address how the propertied rulers use Jew-hatred to divide and weaken the working class in times of intensifying world capitalist crisis. As thousands took to the streets in Selma, Alabama, on the 50th anniversary of the fight for voting rights, Pathfinder's *February 1965: The Final Speeches* includes a talk Malcolm X gave there.

Volunteers are confident that no matter what breaks in international politics, Pathfinder has books that highlight the lessons from previous revolutionary struggles that workers and their allies need to chart a road forward today.

### '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.