

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
Jew-hatred, attacks on free speech  
pose threat to working class  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 44 DECEMBER 7, 2015

## Wis. UAW members: ‘Two-tier pay has to go!’

1,500 Kohler strikers, supporters march & rally



Militant/Dan Fein

UAW strikers marched against Kohler’s attacks Nov. 21, demanding end to two-tier wages.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

KOHLER, Wis. — More than 1,500 striking members of United Auto Workers Local 833 and their supporters turned out for a spirited mass picket and march in front of the Kohler manufacturing plant here Nov. 21. Six days earlier the 2,100-member

local voted overwhelmingly to strike, rejecting the company’s contract proposal to maintain two-tier wages and raise health care costs.

Many unionists — members of the Teamsters, Machinists, United Food and Commercial Workers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Teachers unions — relatives and others turned out in the snow to support the strikers.

“I need you to stand tough with us on this. We need to take care of each other,” Local 833 President Tim Tayloe told the crowd from the back of

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## Campaign against imperialist war! Protest attacks on Muslims, mosques!

The following statement was released Nov. 25 by Norton Sandler, chairman of the New York Socialist Workers Party.

The New York Socialist Workers Party protests the mounting witch hunt by both Democrats and Repub-

### SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

licans and by the state and federal governments against Muslims in the U.S., and Washington’s war drive. The party calls on workers, farmers and all defenders of political rights to join in opposing this campaign by the rulers, which has big stakes for the working class.

In the wake of the reactionary Islamic State terror attacks in Paris, politicians from both the Democratic and Republican parties are cranking up anti-Muslim and anti-Arab bigotry to bolster the propertied rulers’ drive to war and escalate Washington’s military intervention in Syria and the entire Middle East. Simultaneously they seek to create a pariah status for

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## Cuban leaders tour Bay Area: ‘Join fight to lift US embargo’

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN FRANCISCO — “The opening of diplomatic relations with Washington was an important achievement,” Kenia Serrano, a member of the Cuban parliament and president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) told a meeting of over 80 people at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco Nov. 12. She was interviewed by Walter Turner, president of the board of directors of Global Exchange, which coordinated a five-day tour in the Bay Area for Serrano and Leima Martínez, a representative of ICAP’s North American division.

“We have diplomatic relations, but the economic blockade against Cuba is still there,” she said. “It should be lifted!”

Foreign companies that trade with Cuba face sweeping sanctions if they

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## New York meeting: ‘Join fight against US war drive’

BY MAGGIE TROWE

NEW YORK — The Socialist Workers Party is carrying out a communist campaign against imperialism and war, New York SWP organizer Norton Sandler told a special meeting at the party’s new hall here Nov. 21. The meeting came on the heels of escalating war moves in the Middle East by imperialist rulers in Washington, Paris and elsewhere, intertwined with assaults on workers and political rights at home.

“Communists Campaign Against U.S. War Drive: Protest Cop Spying on Muslims and Mosques,” read the banner behind the speakers, a course to combat the rulers’ efforts to take advantage of reactionary terror assaults by Islamic State in France to attack the working class. More than 90

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## Washington, Paris ramp up war moves, attack rights

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Washington, Paris and other imperialist governments have seized on reactionary Islamic State’s deadly attacks that killed 130 people in France to widen their military and diplomatic efforts to shore up their interests in the Middle East. The war drive is coupled with the capitalist rulers’ deepening assault on political rights and the working class — first and foremost targeting Muslims and Arabs.

Since the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks by Islamic State, French forces have stepped up bombardment of Raqqa, the group’s de facto capital, and other targets in Syria. Paris deployed aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle off the coast of Syria, tripling its airpower in the region.

Washington has stepped up bomb-

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## Minn. protests against police killing grow after racists shoot demonstrators



Militant/David Rosenfeld

Day after racists shot protesters at encampment outside police station, more than 1,500 people marched in Minneapolis Nov. 24 demanding charges against cops who killed Jamar Clark.

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

MINNEAPOLIS — More than 1,500 opponents of the police killing of 24-year-old Jamar Clark marched to City Hall Nov. 24 from their protest encampment in front of the 4th Precinct police station here, demonstrating their resolve to continue fighting despite the shooting of five of their number by racist thugs the night before.

A small group of Caucasians who appeared to be wearing bulletproof vests showed up after 10 p.m. and started taunting those at the encampment. They were escorted out but turned and opened fire a block away, hitting five protesters. Among those

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Pa. Steelworkers hold expanded picket, rally against ATI

Airport workers strike in 7 cities for \$15 and a union



# Australia: Protests hit refugee's death, detention center abuse

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY — Chanting “Refugees, yes; racism, no; detention centers have got to go!” 100 people rallied outside the Department of Immigration and Border Protection here Nov. 13, protesting the death of escaped detainee Fazel Chegeni on Christmas Island a week earlier. The Refugee Action Coalition organized the protest, which demanded Canberra close all its offshore detention centers. Demonstrations were held in London; Auckland, New Zealand; and elsewhere.

Protesters held large photographs of Chegeni as well as others who have died in Australia’s immigration prisons.

Chegeni, a Kurdish Iranian refugee in his 30s, climbed over a high razor-wire fence Nov. 7 to escape the detention compound. He was found dead at the foot of a cliff the next day.

Chegeni was originally detained after fleeing Iran and arriving in Australia by boat four years ago. He was granted refugee status, but after get-

ting in a fight with a fellow detainee he was jailed for six months for assault.

“For a refugee, this amounts to a life sentence,” advocate Pamela Curr told ABC News the day of the rally. Denied residency in Australia and unable to return to their original country for fear they will be persecuted, people like Chegeni “will see out their days inside the migration detention system in Australia.”

Protests led by Iranian detainees erupted on Christmas Island at news of his death. Then, in what the media called a “riot,” some prisoners armed with makeshift weapons cut fences, set fires and barricaded themselves in a building.

Two planeloads of riot police and extra security guards were flown in from Perth, 1,600 miles away. They “restored order” with tear gas and rubber bullets, several prisoners reported by phone. Detainees not involved in the protest were put in cages and denied food, water and toilet facilities for more than 24 hours.

The remote Christmas Island facility has become the “punishment center of the Australian detention system,” said Ian Rintoul, speaking for the Refugee Action Coalition. “It is designed to force people to become compliant.”

“The violence these people experienced at the hands of Australian staff, the ongoing verbal abuse, the isolation and a campaign of racist denigration run by a few core Serco staff members have driven these men to an

## Verizon unionists rally against concession demands



Stand Up to Verizon

NEW YORK — Chanting, “What’s disgusting? Union busting!” hundreds of members of the Communications Workers of America who work at Verizon and other unionists rallied and marched here Nov. 19, protesting concession contract demands by the telecommunications giant. Similar protests took place across the state and in New Jersey, Virginia and elsewhere. The contract covering 39,000 members of the CWA and the Internatonal Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in nine states from Massachusetts to Virginia and the District of Columbia expired Aug. 1. Union members continue to work under the old contract.

Verizon, which posted third-quarter net revenues of \$4.04 billion, is demanding increased health care contributions, concessions on pensions and elimination of accident and sickness disability coverage.

“It’s not going good,” Efen Alvarez, 40, an installer of high-speed FiOS Internet service, told the *Militant*. “More than three months and the company won’t budge.”

— MAGGIE TROWE

### Show solidarity with framed-up rail unionists!

Attend Dec. 1 court hearing in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, and stand with Tom Harding and Richard Labrie, who face frame-up charges for the train derailment and explosion that resulted in 47 deaths there. Rail bosses and Transport Canada are responsible.

**Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Lac-Mégantic Sports Centre**

## THE MILITANT

### Washington troops, warplanes out of Mideast!

*The ‘Militant’ champions the Socialist Workers Party’s campaign against military assaults by Washington and other imperialist powers in the Mideast, explaining how capitalist rulers use terror by Islamic State as a pretext for restrictions on political space at home and war abroad.*



Reuters/Christian Hartmann

French police search resident during raid in Saint-Denis, near Paris, Nov. 18.

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act of resistance that was their only means of responding,” Jane Healy from Supporting Asylum Seekers Sydney wrote after visiting the prison for three days in September. Excerpts of the report were read at the rally.

Serco is the private security firm contracted to run 11 of the government’s immigration detention facilities around the country.

There are currently 285 prisoners on Christmas Island. Under a new section of the Migration Act, any noncitizen who has prison or even rehab sentences totaling more than 12 months automatically has their visa revoked.

These prisoners are dubbed “501s,” a reference to the new law, which gives the Immigration Minister power to deport them if he decides they

have “character” issues. They have no right to legal appeal.

The new legislation has also netted a number of New Zealand citizens, many Maori, and many of whom grew up in Australia and whose families live here. Forty out of 200 have been transported to Christmas Island where government officials hope to force them to “voluntarily” return to New Zealand.

Since 1992, successive Labor and Liberal governments have enforced mandatory detention of asylum seekers arriving by boat. This bipartisan border policy has been progressively tightened and offshore detention centers opened on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea and Nauru. There are now 1,500 detainees being held indefinitely on Manus and Nauru.

## The Militant

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On the Picket Line Editor: Maggie Trowe

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**Business manager:** Lea Sherman  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899  
**Fax:** (212) 244-4947  
**E-mail:** [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)  
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# Idaho protests: Prosecute cops who killed rancher!

BY SETH GALINSKY

The shooting death of 62-year-old cattle rancher Jack Yantis by Adams County, Idaho, sheriff's deputies Nov. 1 has been met by a series of protests, with more planned, and is puncturing the myth that police brutality is limited to large urban areas or only affects African-Americans. Yantis is Caucasian.

Seventy people marched Nov. 14 through Council, a town of 800 six miles from the Yantis ranch, to protest the killing. They carried signs saying, "Justice for Jack, Justice for All," "Murder is legal if you're a cop," and "Don't pay 'em, arrest 'em," referring to the cops.

"A great injustice was done to Mr. Yantis and we feel it could have been any of us," family friend Johanna Nielsen told the press at the protest. "We don't want it to just be washed away, go for months and months in the hope that people forget about it."

"This kind of stuff shouldn't happen to anybody," Nielsen, a cattle rancher herself, told the *Militant* by phone Nov. 24. "Some individual police have an old time macho idea that I have a gun and a badge and you need to do what I tell you to do."

"Even though most of the ranches in the area are fairly large, there's not enough money in it," Nielson said, "so generally you do it yourself. You might hire one or two people to help from time to time."

Jack Yantis' family members, including his wife Donna, are calling the rancher's death a murder. Donna Yantis and the couple's nephew, Rowdy Paradis, witnessed the shooting and provided the *Idaho Statesman* with statements describing what happened. Paradis was interviewed as well.

"I stood 10 feet away and watched two deputies escalate the situation and needlessly kill a man," Paradis told the paper.

The family was eating dinner when a sheriff's dispatcher called and reported that one of Yantis' bulls had been struck by a car and it needed to be taken care of, their statements explain. Two occupants of the car were injured and the wounded bull was charging at people.

The bull, named Keiford, was tame, having been raised and trained by Yantis. It made its way back to the entrance to the ranch before it collapsed.

Jack Yantis headed to the scene and Paradis went to get a front-end loader. The deputies started shooting at the bull with a semiautomatic rifle, leaving it more grievously wounded but still alive. Donna Yantis brought a rifle to her husband.

Jack Yantis had lined up the rifle and was ready to put the bull out of its misery when "the one cop turned around and grabbed his shoulder and jerked him backwards," Paradis said. He thinks Yantis' rifle might have gone off accidentally. The other deputy started shooting, striking Yantis in the abdomen and chest.

When Paradis and Donna Yantis ran toward her husband to help him, the deputies "threw us on the middle of Highway 95, searched and handcuffed us, and wouldn't let us go take care of Jack," she told the *Statesman*.

The deputies seemed "smug" and "almost celebratory" after the shooting, Paradis told the paper. Donna Yantis had a heart attack and had to be rushed to the

hospital.

"Meanwhile, the bull was still alive," the *Statesman* said. "Family members asked the deputies to put it down to end its suffering. No one did."

Word about the killing got around in the rural area. Adams County Sheriff Ryan Zollman announced that he had turned the investigation into the shooting over to the Idaho State Police and put the two deputies on paid administrative leave.

## Cops 'don't know' if there's video

Zollman spoke to an angry crowd of 300 at a town hall meeting Nov. 10 who wanted answers. He said he did not know if the two deputies were wearing body cameras at the time of the shooting or if one of the vehicles' dashboard cameras had been turned on. He refused to release the names of the two officers.

The Idaho State Police also refused requests for any video of the shooting or 911 audio recordings while the investigation is underway. The inquiry, which has been joined by the FBI, could take months.



Protesters rally outside Ada County Courthouse in Boise, Idaho, Nov. 21, demanding release of video camera footage from Nov. 1 cop killing of Council rancher Jack Yantis.

At least six people have been killed by local police officers in Idaho this year. In five cases the police assert that those killed were armed. In 2014, Jeanette Riley, a pregnant Native American woman, was shot five times outside a hospital emergency room in Sandpoint while she was holding a knife. Riley had mental health problems.

A couple dozen people protested outside the Ada County Courthouse in Boise Nov. 21 carrying signs saying,

"Is there video? I don't know — Sheriff Zollman."

"If it proves their innocence, why hasn't it been released yet?" Herrisen Hagens, who helped create a "Justice for Jack" Facebook page, told television station KIVI.

Organizers of the event told the *Statesman* they've received "positive feedback, and plan to protest on a regular basis." The next Justice for Jack rally is set for noon Dec. 12 in Boise.

# Wis. Kohler strikers: 'Two-tier pay has to go!'

## Continued from front page

a pickup truck after they had marched past the plant. "Just make it equal and fair for everybody, and we'll go back in there and put their product out again," he said, challenging the company. Then everyone marched back to the union hall.

The central issue is Kohler's refusal to eliminate a two-tier wage and benefit structure in a contract adopted in 2010 when bosses claimed they

needed help because of the economic downturn.

"We are not backing down," Lori DeSmith, a Tier B worker in the plating department for three years who makes \$12.50 an hour, told the *Militant*. "This is so unfair. We are all in this together."

DeSmith brought her two sons — Devin DeSmith, a high school student, and Alex Turner, 18, an auto mechanic — to the march. "It was pretty cool seeing everyone getting together for a com-

mon cause," Turner said.

"The two-tier setup has to go," said Charles Kestell, a castings grinder who has worked at Kohler more than 41 years. "We can't have people making much less. The union will be gone if we don't get rid of two-tier. Kohler used to be the preferred workplace. Now they can't get people to stay."

Kohler, founded in the Wisconsin company town in 1873, employs 30,000 people in operations on six continents, making plumbing fixtures, engines and power generation systems, with annual revenues of \$6 billion. In Sheboygan County 5,000 people work for the company.

"This is my first strike," said Adam Stange, 21, who has worked in the foundry casting toilet bowls for five months. As a Tier B worker he makes \$13.30 an hour. Tier A workers doing the same job make \$24. Stange also has Tier B medical insurance. "We pay more for premiums and have higher deductibles," he said.

Curt Brauer, business agent for IBEW Local 494, which represents more than 2,000 electrical workers in six counties in southeast Wisconsin, came to the march to show solidarity with the strikers. "Kohler only hires non-union contractors," he said.

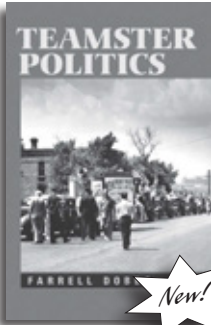
Mike Zimmermann, president of the Sheboygan County Labor Council, told the *Militant* area unions "will be organizing food drives and help with picketing to back the strikers."

Following a Nov. 16 march of more than 1,000 strikers and supporters that blocked traffic for miles, a Sheboygan County circuit court judge granted Kohler's request for an injunction prohibiting strikers from interfering with traffic near its property.

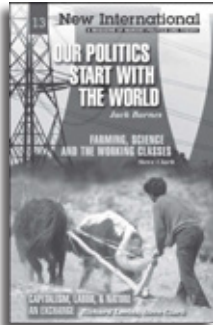
The union is fighting the family-owned company's demands for further restrictions to prohibit mass protests. A hearing is scheduled for Nov. 25.

Send letter of support and donations to The Kohler UAW Local 833 Workers Relief Fund, Emil Mazey Hall, 5425 Superior Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53083.

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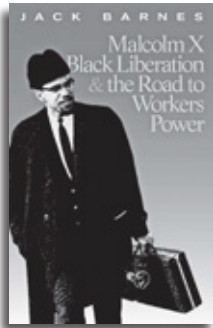
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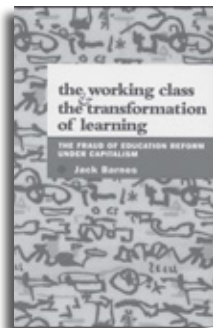
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# Jew-hatred, attacks on free speech threat to working class

BY SETH GALINSKY

Left and liberal groups on campuses and elsewhere have carried out a series of thuggish actions aimed at crushing free speech and debate, combined with not-so subtle anti-Semitism, justified in the name of support for the Palestinian struggle. This is a deadly threat to the interests of the working class, the struggle for Palestinian national rights and the fight against Jew-hatred.

On Nov. 3 two dozen protesters at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis shouted down guest lecturer Moshe Halbertal, a law professor from Israel, delaying the program by more than half an hour. The disruption was organized by Students for a Democratic Society, Students for Justice in Palestine and the Anti-War Committee. They claimed that Halbertal is a “war criminal” because he helped write the Israeli army code of ethics.

Halbertal has often criticized Hamas, the reactionary Islamist group that rules Gaza, for using civilians as human shields when attacking Israel. He has also criticized the Israeli government for military attacks he considers “immoral and illegal instruments of deterrence.”

“Professional combatants should err on the side of protecting noncombatants from casualties,” even if that means increasing “risks to themselves or to their cause,” Halbertal told the crowd after the lecture finally began.

## Refusal to debate

“We use disruption for the same reason that Palestinian children use rocks — it’s our only option,” two of the protest organizers wrote to justify their refusal to debate the issues, unlike other supporters of Palestinian rights who spoke in the discussion period.

Similar efforts to shout down those they disagree with have been taken by supporters of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign, which seeks to make a pariah of Israel. The campaign has gained support on college campuses from left and liberal students and professors, who label Israel an “apartheid state.” They advocate boycotting Israeli goods and shutting down artistic, musical and academic exchanges with Israel.

At the City University of New York’s

Hunter College Nov. 12, Students for Justice in Palestine, the Revolutionary Student Coordinating Committee and Students Without Borders organized a rally that was billed as part of the national Million Student March for tuition-free universities, cancellation of student debts and a \$15 minimum wage for campus workers. But they turned it into an anti-Semitic rally.

A leaflet by Students for Justice in Palestine publicizing the event attacked the university’s “Zionist administration” which, it said, “invests in Israeli companies, hosts birthright programs and study abroad programs in occupied Palestine, and reproduces settler-colonial ideology throughout CUNY through Zionist content of education.”

During the rally speakers led chants including, “What do we want? Zionists out!” directed at the university administration and at several Jewish students holding signs that said “We support lower tuition, not terrorism against Israel” and “Pro-Israel, pro-affordable tuition.”

## Palestinians, Jews will live together

“I don’t agree with all the government’s policies. But Jews are going to continue to live in Israel. Palestinians are going to live in Israel. We are going to live together,” one of the Jewish students can be heard saying in a video of the confrontation posted on the Internet.

Seeking to cut off debate, some at the rally chanted, “From the river to the sea, Palestine must be free,” which was also



Militant photos by Lea Sherman

Chanting, “Zionists out of CUNY!” Students for Justice in Palestine and other groups turned Nov. 12 rally against tuition hikes at Hunter College in NY (above) into anti-Semitic action against Israel and effort to drive away Jewish students, inset.



chanted at the University of Minnesota disruption. The slogan is taken from a speech by Hamas leader Khaled Me-shaal.

“Palestine is ours, from the river to the sea and from the south to the north. There will be no concession on an inch of land,” he said in December 2012 in Gaza City. “There is no legitimacy for Israel.”

“With their money, they took control of the world media,” Hamas’ 1988 covenant states, slandering and scapegoating the Jewish people. “They were behind World War I, when they were able to destroy the Islamic Caliphate [the Ottoman Empire], making financial gains and controlling resources.”

“Zionist” has become a code word for Jewish, used by those who put an equal sign between the current brutal and oppressive Israeli capitalist rulers and the

Jewish population. They paint Israel as the most reactionary country on earth.

Zionism is the name of the movement that was formed over a century ago to fight for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Israel was established following the Nazi Holocaust and the annihilation of some 6 million Jews during World War II. The country has existed for 67 years. Despite the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Arabs, more than 20 percent of Israel’s population is Arab. There is no Zionist movement today.

In a world of deepening capitalist economic and social crisis the boss class will more and more seek to give the green light to those who blame the crisis on Jews. Growing attacks on Jews in Europe have led to a significant rise in emigration to Israel.

The European Union moved Nov. **Continued on page 6**

## Minn. protests grow after racists shoot demonstrators

### Continued from front page

reported shot were Wesley Martin — who returned to the encampment the next day; Cameron Clark, a cousin of Jamar Clark; Tevin King; and Draper Larkins.

Miski Noor, a media spokesperson for Black Lives Matter Minneapolis, spoke from the encampment before the march. “We have zero faith in the police,” she said. “We will not bow to fear or intimidation. We recommit ourselves to the occupation and continue to demand release of any tapes of the shooting.”

Clark was shot in the head a few blocks from the station, which is located in the heart of North Minneapolis, an overwhelmingly Black area of the city. Three days later, police officials released the names of the officers involved in the shooting, Mike Ringgenberg and Dustin Schwarze.

Several witnesses claim that Clark had been handcuffed by the police before he was shot. The police dispute this claim. Cops say Clark interfered with paramedics helping an injured woman they say Clark had struck in a domestic dispute. After the shooting, area residents took to the streets, shouting at the cops and accusing them of murder.

Later that day North Minneapolis residents, Black Lives Matter members and others gathered in an impromptu protest at the site of the shooting. Nekelia Sharp, one of several neighbors who spoke, told the *Militant* that she witnessed the killing from across the street.

“He never resisted. When they cuffed him, they had him cuffed hand in hand and they slammed that man down,” Sharp said. “One had his knee on his back. When that boy looked up, the only

thing he could say was ‘f-you’ and there was the bullet.”

The crowd of several hundred marched down Plymouth Avenue to the station, where protesters set up the encampment in front of the station and occupied the entryway.

Family members reported Clark had been declared brain-dead and was taken off life support Nov. 16.

The local chapter of the NAACP and Black Lives Matter have organized daily rallies, marches and vigils. One march shut down Interstate 94 for several hours and ended in the arrest of 51 protesters. Cornell Brooks, president of the national NAACP, joined an action of nearly 1,000 Nov. 21, drawing a broad, multinational crowd from throughout the area.

Under growing pressure, Democratic Farmer-Labor Party Mayor Betsy Hodges and Police Chief Janée Harteau took the investigation of the shooting out of the hands of the Minneapolis cops. Harteau said the inquiry would be conducted by the Minnesota state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and requested the FBI conduct a parallel civil rights investigation.

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension says it has footage from a mobile police camera stationed in the area, nearby public housing surveillance cameras, an ambulance dashcam and people’s cellphones, but won’t release them until after the investigation is completed — in two to four months.

The head of the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis, Lt. Bob Kroll, has emerged as the de facto spokesperson for the two cops. He claims that Clark was trying to take an officer’s gun from

his holster when he was shot. He criticized the mayor and police chief for not shutting down the protesters’ encampment.

Three nights after the shooting, police moved to physically eject the protesters from the entryway of the police station. The move precipitated a night of heated confrontation and the deployment of a tactical squad with rifles armed with beanbag rounds and tear gas. The cops doused protesters with what they called a “chemical irritant.” Some individuals in the crowd threw rocks and bricks at police and parked cop cars. Images of these actions, featuring participation by a small group flying an anarchist red and black flag, were played extensively on the local media.

The protesters were expelled from inside the building, but the encampment outside stayed up. Hot food, tents, hats and gloves, as well as firewood to feed bonfires have been donated. The Service Employees International Union gave a porta-potty.

At the initiative of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3800, which organizes clerical workers at the University of Minnesota, some 100 trade unionists from nearly a dozen unions organized a “Labor for Justice for Jamar” rally Nov. 21.

Students from nearby Anwatin Middle School made their way here to show support. A local group of Native American dancers and drummers came and performed. “The African community is united with our African-American brothers and sisters,” said Abdullah Kiatumba, executive director of African Immigrant Services, at a vigil here.

—**MILITANT  
LABOR  
FORUMS**—

**CALIFORNIA**  
**Los Angeles**  
**The Fight for \$15 and a Union.** Fri., Dec. 4. 2826 S. Vermont Ave., Suite 1. Tel.: (323) 643-4968.

**NEW YORK**  
**New York**  
**Protest the Scapegoating of Muslims!**  
Speaker: John Studer, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Dec. 4. Dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 227 W. 29th St., 6th Floor (between 7th and 8th Ave.) Tel.: (646) 434-8117.

**CANADA**  
**Calgary**  
**Keystone Pipeline Debate, Oil Production — Both Must Begin With Needs of World’s Workers and Farmers.** Speaker: François Bradette, Communist League. Fri., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. 4909 17th Ave. SE, Unit 154. Tel.: (403) 457-9044.



# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

## Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles across the country!

This column is dedicated to giving voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including workers fighting for \$15 and a union; locked-out ATI Steelworkers; auto, steel and Verizon workers whose contracts have expired. I invite those involved in workers' battles to 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 dairy farmworkers fight firings, unsafe job conditions

PENN YAN, N.Y. — “We work 12 to 14 hours a day, and then if we get injured they fire us,” Victor Hernández, a dairy worker fired after he was injured on the job, said during a special program at St. Mark's Episcopal Church here Nov. 8. “They treat us like we are a machine, not a human being.”

Hernández was one of several dairy workers who spoke at a daylong event to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of farmworker Marco Antonio Ortiz Perez in the heart of the state's milk-producing Finger Lakes region.

Ortiz was killed when he was cleaning a silo and an auger — a large rotating screw conveyor — tore off his arm and shoulder.

“Farmworkers shouldn't have to work in unsafe conditions,” Gilberto Reyes, who works at a nearby vineyard, told the *Militant*.

In addition to the farmworkers, organizers of the event included the St. Mark's Church, Worker Justice Center of New York, Unitarian Universalist Congregations of Rochester and Canandaigua, Rural and Migrant Ministries, and the Workers' Center of Central New York.

— Maggie Trowe and Seth Galinsky

### New Zealand health workers protest understaffing, 2-tier pay

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Chanting “Underfunded, overworked!” 300 health workers struck for two hours and rallied near North Shore Hospital here Nov. 10 against understaffing and two-tier wages, the first of a series of two-hour strikes and rallies at Auckland's public hospitals.

Some 3,000 members of the Public Service Association — laboratory technicians, physiotherapists, social workers, pharmacists, dieticians and others — are involved.

They are protesting plans by the city's three district health boards to extend some services from five to seven days a week with no increase in staff and to pay new hires less. Placards and chants at the actions condemned cuts in hospital funding, increasing workloads, staff shortages and the undermining of patient care.

— Mike Tucker

### Pa. Steelworkers hold expanded picket, rally against ATI

LATROBE, Pa. — Some 200 people, including a broad representation of unionists and family members, joined locked-out members of United Steelworkers Local 1138-6 in a picket and rally at the main gate of Allegheny Technologies Inc. here Nov. 18.

ATI locked out 2,200 Steelworkers at 12 plants in six states Aug. 15. The company seeks to slash health care, institute 12-hour shifts, cut pensions, reduce wages and overtime pay and contract out more work.

In addition to Steelworkers, other unions participating included the United Mine Workers of America, United Food and Commercial Workers and United Auto Workers.

Members of the Greater Westmoreland Central Labor Council and USW District 10 Director Bobby “Mac” McAuliffe were there.

Local 1138 member Alan Braden led chanting with a bullhorn. A few vehicles slowly made way through the crowd and into the plant. The crowd made it clear the action would be remembered and not forgiven. Donations of firewood and money were dropped off during the rally. As the day's light began to fade, the unionists projected “Fair Contract Now”



Vonie Long

**Locked-out Steelworkers stop truck at entrance to Allegheny Technologies Inc. mill in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, during expanded picket and rally Nov. 18. Lockout began Aug. 15.**

onto a billboard-sized ATI sign.

Local 1138-6 President Lou Chillsky commended his co-workers for standing united, and said he was amazed at the amount of community and labor support extended throughout the lockout.

The ATI workers “will get through this and will be stronger for it!” Chillsky said at a dinner afterwards. There was plenty of food provided by mem-

bers and local businesses. Two tables were loaded with canned and packaged food, and monetary and gift cards were also donated. Greater Westmoreland Central Labor Council gave \$500.

The company is ending health care coverage of the locked-workers at the end of this month.

— Vonie Long, USW Local 1165 president at ArcelorMittal mill in Coatesville, Pennsylvania

## Airport workers strike in 7 cities for \$15 and union

BY CANDACE WAGNER

NEW YORK — “Stand up! Fight back!” rang out at seven U.S. airports as contract workers walked off the job in a 24-hour strike Nov. 18-19 to win support for their fight for \$15 an hour, union contracts and respect. Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ organized the strike and solidarity actions.

At New York's JFK airport, strikers from contract companies Roma Cleaning and Ultimate Aircraft were joined at a Nov. 19 rally by 32BJ building maintenance workers, fast-food workers active in Fight for \$15 and Walmart workers, including a delegation from several cities in town for protests at the home of Alice Walton, one of Walmart's owners.

“Even for me, a single guy with no kids, \$10.10 an hour is not enough,” said Jose Cruz, a cleaner at Ultimate. “I can't imagine the people who have kids. We need benefits, and not just the ‘go-to-the-doctor-once-a-year’ plan.”

Walkouts also took place at LaGuardia Airport and in Boston; Newark, New Jersey; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Chicago; and Philadelphia.



BY CHRIS HOEPFNER

PHILADELPHIA — “We're tired of the disrespect and intimidation,” said Onetha McNight, a wheelchair attendant on the picket line here, as she struck with hundreds of exuberant airport workers and supporters. McNight's pay was recently raised from \$5.75 to \$8.40 an hour, far below the \$12 an hour mandated by law and the \$15 workers demand.

“I work. I sweat. Put \$15 in my check!” chanted the pickets.

In May 2014 Mayor Michael Nutter signed an executive order that would increase the minimum wage for airport workers to \$12 an hour, but strikers say many wheelchair attendants have not

gotten that raise.

“It is still not where we need to be at,” said Montrell Groves, a baggage handler. He receives \$12, but several contractors still do not pay that wage.

A group of students from Widener College joined the picket line. “This is real life,” said Zonanab Adeliran. “I want better wages for all these workers.”

Several Philadelphia City Council members and Mayor-elect Jim Kenney attended the protest.

Socialist Workers Party candidates Osborne Hart and John Staggs, who ran for mayor and City Council in the Nov. 3 election, joined the picket lines along with fellow Walmart workers.

After picketing at the airport the strikers marched to the contractors' headquarters about a mile from the terminal, where striking workers and union representatives met with company representatives to demand the \$12 minimum wage be implemented.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



December 7, 1990

Giving a green light to Washington's unleashing of its massive military force against Iraq, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council agreed on a resolution November 26 authorizing “all necessary means to restore international peace and security in the area.”

This diplomatic victory for the U.S. government comes after an uninterrupted military buildup since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces.

As it deployed tens of thousands of ground troops, tanks, artillery, advanced missiles, warships, bombers, fighter planes and nuclear submarines to the region, the U.S. government used successive resolutions in the Security Council as a cover for preparing an imperialist war of aggression against the Iraqi people.



December 6, 1965

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 — Today's March on Washington for Peace in Vietnam made it clear that a growing number of Americans are opposed to the war and willing to go out of their way to demonstrate their opposition. With at least 35,000 in attendance, the march was the biggest such action in the capital so far.

One of the striking things was the number of groups from southern cities and universities whose members say they have just got started building anti-Vietnam war committees in recent weeks — and often in none too friendly surroundings.

One thousand copies of a pamphlet distributed by the Young Socialist Alliance, entitled “War and Revolution in Vietnam” were sold, along with 800 copies of the *Militant*.



December 7, 1940

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 30 — The Negro and working-class population of this city is bitterly aroused against the mass arrest of almost 600 Negroes, whom police seized in the streets, restaurants and tap-rooms of the North Philadelphia 20th Ward last week.

The Philadelphia political machine is taking advantage of the present political atmosphere — war hysteria, the government drive against striking workers as “saboteurs” and “reds,” the brazen Jim-Crowing of Negroes in the army and navy, the refusal of corporations with military orders to hire Negroes — to force the Negroes by terror to support the local bosses in City Hall.

A mass meeting of all Negro organizations here is to be held Wednesday, December 4.



# ‘Join fight against war drive’

Continued from front page  
people attended the meeting.

“As-Salaam-Alaikum,” Sandler said. “That’s what SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes said when he spoke at a big party-sponsored meeting shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaeda-organized attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.”

In their assault on our class, the rulers’ biggest target then, and now, is the section of the working class who are Muslims and Arabs, Sandler said. “Communists know the rights of the working class are what is always at stake when the capitalist rulers go to war.”

And the drive to war is being ramped up, Sandler said, in Washington, Paris and other imperialist capitals.

You see more soldiers and cops in Penn Station and Grand Central Station, he said. And the Bill de Blasio administration in New York is adding 560 counterterrorism intelligence cops to what is already a larger force than most countries have.

“The New York Socialist Workers Party plans to visit mosques and Muslim communities, get to know people and lend our support,” he said to applause. “I invite anyone who would like to join in to see me and sign up.”

“After Sept. 11 we discussed how the rulers and their government would try to make it sound like a classless ‘we’ made up the U.S. populace,” he said. “The same thing is developing in the wake of the murderous attack in Paris.”

The French legislature voted overwhelmingly to impose and extend a far-reaching state of emergency that gives cops more sweeping powers and guts political rights, Sandler said. There have been hundreds of raids inside France, with no warrant required. The French capitalist government wants to reinforce anti-working-class statutes, passed during French imperialism’s bloody but failed fight against the Algerian liberation struggle in the 1950s and ’60s, that allow for far-reaching spying and stripping citizenship from those named as terrorists.

The meeting featured debate on several questions. One participant said it was her opinion that the reactionary, terrorist Islamic State was growing and asked what was its attraction for young people and workers.

## Islamic State attracts few youth

“I don’t think they attract many at all,” said Barnes, speaking from the audience. “There are millions and millions of Muslims and Arabs in France.

Only a miniscule number are attracted to Islamic State. Go and sell the *Militant* at mosques and neighborhoods around them. You won’t find many favorable to Islamic State.”

Barnes contrasted the Algerian war for independence from France to the development of the brutal anti-working-class Islamic State.

IS was built by former officers from Saddam Hussein’s army — broken up by the U.S. invasion of Iraq — who merged with a handful of al-Qaeda terror adherents, Barnes said.

Young people in Algeria were fighting for their independence against extreme French brutality. Islamic State and its terror attacks has nothing to do with that, he said. It’s more like the murderous Pol Pot regime in Cambodia in the 1970s.

“We’re in a slow, slow depression,” Sandler said, “You don’t have bread lines like the 1930s, but it *is* depression conditions for working people and things are getting worse. That’s what motivates workers to go hear candidates like Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders, who say they’re something different, and why the Socialist Workers Party gets more of a hearing than in decades.”

## Working-class struggles

Strengthening working-class struggles is part and parcel of the fight against imperialism and war, Sandler said. “The SWP tries to help lead and expand the struggles, win solidarity and increase confidence. We are part of strikes by airport workers, the fight for \$15 an hour by fast-food and other workers. We are part of the United Auto Workers striking against two-tier wages at Kohler Co. in Wisconsin, the fight of Steelworkers against the 95-day lockout by Allegheny Technologies and against U.S. Steel and ArcelorMittal’s concession demands.”

Naomi Craine, a leader of the party in New York, chaired the meeting. She introduced several people active in labor and social struggles — Denise Barlage, a member of OUR Walmart (Organization United for Respect at Walmart), who is part of a delegation touring the U.S. to build support for Black Friday actions calling for \$15 and full-time hours; Vonie Long, president of United Steelworkers Local 1165 in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, that is fighting concession demands from the bosses and organizing support for locked-out workers at Allegheny Technologies Inc.; and Ikea Coney, who has been active in the fight against police brutality and whose son Darrin Manning was beaten by Philadelphia cops last year.

The fight against anti-Semitism and Jew-hatred is a burning question in the U.S. and the world, Sandler said. “The Socialist Workers Party insists that Israel has the right to exist. We support the just demands of the Palestinian people against oppression by the Israeli government and their demand for a contiguous Palestinian state. We say that Jews from anywhere in the world who feel under attack must be able to return to Israel.”

Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Philadelphia in 2015, described how campaigners spoke for the working class in the election, joining in workers’ pickets and struggles, from defense of the Americans with Disabilities Act to the fight



Inset: Militant/Arnold Weissberg

In their assault on working class, the rulers’ main target is the section of the class that is Muslim and Arab, said Norton Sandler, inset, New York Socialist Workers Party organizer. New York officials stepped up police deployments, seen above in Times Square Nov. 18, and are adding hundreds of new agents to their counterintelligence squads, already larger than those of most nations.

against police brutality. He thanked supporters in New York and elsewhere for their help campaigning there and in the several-week effort to collect nearly 3,000 signatures in workers districts to put Hart and John Staggs for City Council on the ballot.

Since the Nov. 3 election Hart, Staggs and SWP supporters have been part of the Nov. 10 Fight for \$15 actions, the airport workers’ strike and the Communications Workers protest against Verizon’s concession demands,” he said.

“We advocate independent political action, the formation of a labor party based on the unions,” Hart said, “and we help build confidence and consciousness of who are our allies and who are not.”

A special display at the meeting featured highlights of the Philadelphia campaign, including considerable press coverage Hart and Staggs received.

## Building an international movement

“Our perspective is to build a communist world movement of parties like the SWP,” said Steve Clark, a leader of SWP in New York and member of the speakers’ panel. Our sister party, the Socialist Workers Party of Iran, was forged there through the mass mobilizations in 1978 against the brutal anti-working-class regime of the U.S.-backed Shah.

“The SWP in Iran was an organization of communists recruited and trained in the U.S., in the SWP here,” Clark said. “It was, like its U.S. counterpart, a party imbued and inspired by the lessons and

example of the Cuban Revolution.”

Clark described how the Iranian SWP took part in the massive uprising in February 1979 that toppled the Shah, set up workers councils in factories and neighborhoods and fought, arms in hand, against the invasion of Iran by Saddam’s Iraqi regime in 1980. The Iranian SWP was virtually the only voice in defense of the Kurdish liberation struggle in Iran, Turkey, Syria and Iraq, and in defense of other oppressed nationalities. It took part in oil strikes in the Arab region around Isfahan and in demonstrations for women’s rights. The SWP ran for president of Iran in 1980, and was on the ballot.

“That party set an example of the kind of campaign, the kind of voice for the working class and oppressed that the SWP 2016 campaign can be,” Clark said.

The 1980s counterrevolution in Iran didn’t crush the working class or silence the voice of communism, he said. The Talaye Porsoo publishing house has produced more than 40 Pathfinder titles in Farsi and sold more than 50,000 copies of books with a communist perspective in Iran and the broader region, including in Afghanistan and Kurdish regions.

Volunteers prepared a delicious meal for the meeting. A collection raised nearly \$9,000 to build the party.

The New York hall, Sandler announced, will be the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party 2016 presidential campaign.

# Jew-hatred, attacks on free speech

Continued from page 4

11 to further demonize Israel and Jews there by requiring special labeling identifying goods from Jewish-owned businesses and farms in the West Bank, Golan Heights and East Jerusalem. The Obama administration backed the move.

The Socialist Workers Party presents a strategy that can put an end to the cycle of violence between the Israeli state and reactionary forces like Hamas. A revolutionary Palestinian leadership would denounce Jew-hatred, recognize the existence of Israel and support the right of Jews anywhere in the world to live there, while fighting for a contiguous Palestinian state, for dismantling Israeli settlements in the West Bank and for combat-

ing discrimination and the second-class status of Arab citizens of Israel. Doing so it would win allies inside Israel.

This can open the road to building a mass movement of Jewish, Palestinian, Druze, Christian, Muslim and immigrant workers capable of taking power out of the hands of their common enemy, the Israeli capitalist ruling class, and the ruling rich in the West Bank and Gaza.

Shouting down political opponents and physically preventing people from speaking are a deadly threat to building such a movement. Workers and defenders of Palestinian rights require political space and wide room for discussion and debate.

Lea Sherman contributed to this article.

IN NEW INTERNATIONAL NO. 7

## Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq

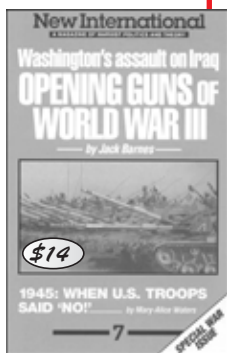
by Jack Barnes

Also features:

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# ‘Join fight to lift embargo’

**Continued from front page**

also do business in the U.S. Last year Washington fined a French bank almost \$9 billion for dealing with Cuba, Serrano said.

The Barack Obama administration has allocated \$20 million in its 2016 budget to pay Cubans to organize opposition to the Cuban government. “It’s a contradiction to say you are in favor of better relations, but at the same time work to overthrow the revolution by different means,” she said. “These programs should be stopped.”

“We are very jealous about guarding our independence and sovereignty,” she said. “The U.S. should return the base in Guantánamo that was taken illegally from Cuba a century ago.”

During their visit to the Bay Area, Serrano and Martínez spoke to hundreds of people, including 200 at a Nov. 13 meeting in Richmond sponsored by the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity and other groups at the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts and at a Nov. 11 meeting here of over 100 sponsored by the Bay Area Latin America Solidarity Coalition, the ANSWER Coalition and others.

“For the police to shoot someone is very rare in Cuba. The police are respected. Cuba is not segregated the way the U.S. is,” Serrano said at the Commonwealth Club in response to questions about the conditions of Afro-Cubans and the role of the police since Cuba’s 1959 revolution. “If you visit, you will see that Cubans of different skin colors live in the same buildings, go to the same schools.

“At the time of the revolution, Cuba was a very poor country and the gap between rich and poor was huge,” she said. “Since then we’ve made gains, including in health and education, both of which are free to all Cubans. Women were once excluded from politics, but now they are 48 percent of the parliament.

“At the same time, all the inequalities

inherited from the history of slavery and discrimination have not been eliminated,” Serrano added. Blacks were hit hardest in what Cubans call the Special Period in the 1990s, when Cuba lost over 80 percent of its trade and aid from the collapsing Soviet Union, and Washington tightened its economic blockade. “We are very conscious about that and are working to overcome.”

## Will tourism undermine revolution?

Won’t increased tourism undermine the values of equality and cultural independence that Cuba has fought for, Serrano was asked.

“One of the things the media says is that Cuba is moving toward capitalism. We are not. The main productive property remains in the hands of the state,” Serrano said. “We also have private property. For example, 80 percent of Cubans own their homes. But the main sectors of the Cuban economy remain in state hands and we plan how they are going to be used.”

“We welcome tourists to Cuba,” she said. “But the U.S. continues to maintain restrictions on its citizens visiting Cuba.”

Hundreds of thousands of Cubans have volunteered for what Cubans call internationalist missions, Serrano said. “We sent doctors to Africa to treat Ebola. We have a literacy program called ‘Yes I can’ that we have helped to implement in 30 countries. Recently I was in Australia where I saw how this campaign was being carried out in indigenous communities.”

Serrano thanked those at all her meetings who were part of the international campaign that won freedom for the Cuban Five. The five revolutionaries were imprisoned by Washington in 1998 for efforts to protect Cuba from violent attacks by enemies of the revolution based in the U.S.

Serrano said Cuba was making some changes today, under the pressure of the world capitalist economic crisis and the continuing U.S. em-

## Nebraska rally: ‘Abolish the death penalty!’



Militant/Joe Swanson

LINCOLN, Neb. — Carrying signs reading “Execute justice, not people” and “No one has put a rich man on death row,” some 70 people rallied outside the state Capitol here Nov. 13. Most of them were students from Lincoln-area high schools and the University of Nebraska. Some people driving by honked in support of abolishing capital punishment.

The protest grew out of a classroom debate at the Lincoln Public Schools Arts and Humanities Focus Program a few months ago. “We’ve attended protests before, but this was the first one we organized on our own,” said 17-year-old Jack Westerfield, who called the action along with fellow student Roxanna Piersol. “We decided to protest against the death penalty because the issue will appear on the November 2016 ballot. We hope to educate people about its history in Nebraska, its impact on families and the racial disparities in the number of executions.”

Christy and Richard Hargesheimer, 40-year veterans of Nebraskans for Peace, spoke at the rally. They have fought to end Nebraska’s death penalty since 1991. Nebraskans for Peace highlighted the fight to defeat the pro-execution referendum at its Oct. 17 conference.

— JOE SWANSON

bargo. “With 500,000 Cubans now self-employed and cooperatives being formed in various sectors, some people will earn more, but they will also pay more taxes,” she said at the meeting in San Francisco.

“We will not allow the accumulation of wealth in the hands of individuals. It will be Cuba that prioritizes where investment is needed,” she said. “Foreign companies have to respect our labor code, including laws to guarantee against racist and other

forms of discrimination.”

Cuba is also fighting against bureaucracy, reducing the number of government ministries, and encouraging productive work in agriculture and other areas, Serrano said.

## What is Cuban socialism?

“What is Cuban socialism?” asked a student at San Francisco State University, where 65 students packed a room to hear Serrano and Martínez, with more spilling into the hallway.

“In Cuba we have social property and no exploitation of workers. Human beings are the center of everything,” Serrano answered. “The essence of capitalism is selfishness. In socialism people transform themselves as they build a new society. It’s the only way possible.

“We have had 134 medical students from the U.S. studying in Cuba,” said Martínez, who works with U.S. students attending the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM). Cuba grants scholarships to youth from around the world. “We have doctors helping in many countries. After the nuclear accident in the Ukraine at Chernobyl, we brought 20,000 kids affected by the disaster to Cuba for medical treatment.”

“I studied in Cuba because I was looking for a place where health care is a priority and a human right,” Laura Gomez, one of 21 U.S. medical students who recently graduated from ELAM, said at the Richmond meeting. “All our tuition, including books, food, board and even pencils, were provided. Cuba is a country with limited resources. They share, not what they can spare, but what they have.”

*Miguel Pendás contributed to this article.*

## Fast-food and farmworkers meet Cuban revolutionaries

**BY BETSEY STONE**

RICHMOND, Calif. — “We are organizing to get a contract with the United Farm Workers union,” Augustín García, a fruit tree worker at Gerawan Farming in California’s Central Valley, told Kenia Serrano and Leima Martínez here Nov. 13. On tour for the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, they were able to meet with farmworkers, Walmart workers, fast-food workers and others fighting for \$15 an hour and a union to learn more about their struggles.

“We worked so hard we were literally running,” added Rafael Marquez, also part of the Gerawan fight. “We won a contract. But the company didn’t want to enforce it. The company has tried to intimidate the workers and doesn’t respect our rights. So we are still fighting.”

Shonda Roberts, a leader and co-founder of the East Bay Organizing Committee, a group of fast-food workers, described their successful fight to get her job back at Kentucky Fried Chicken after being fired. “We organized and shut down the store, and I was reinstated with pay,” she told the two Cuban revo-

lutionaries. “As a result of this action a co-worker active in the fight for \$15 won hours back that had been cut.”

“You can’t make it on what they pay you,” said McDonald’s worker Tina Sandoval. “After I pay the rent there is little left over. What we are demanding is fair treatment. And no intimidation of the workers.”

“I didn’t think twice about getting involved in the fight for \$15,” Sandoval said. “My family was part of the farmworkers struggle with César Chávez, so it’s in my blood.”

“I want to give you all my solidarity



Militant/Betsey Stone

From left, Cuban ICAP leaders Leima Martínez and Kenia Serrano discuss fight for \$15 and unions with fast-food workers and farmworkers in Richmond, Calif., Nov. 13.



# 1913: Jew-hatred key to Romanian rulers' grip on power

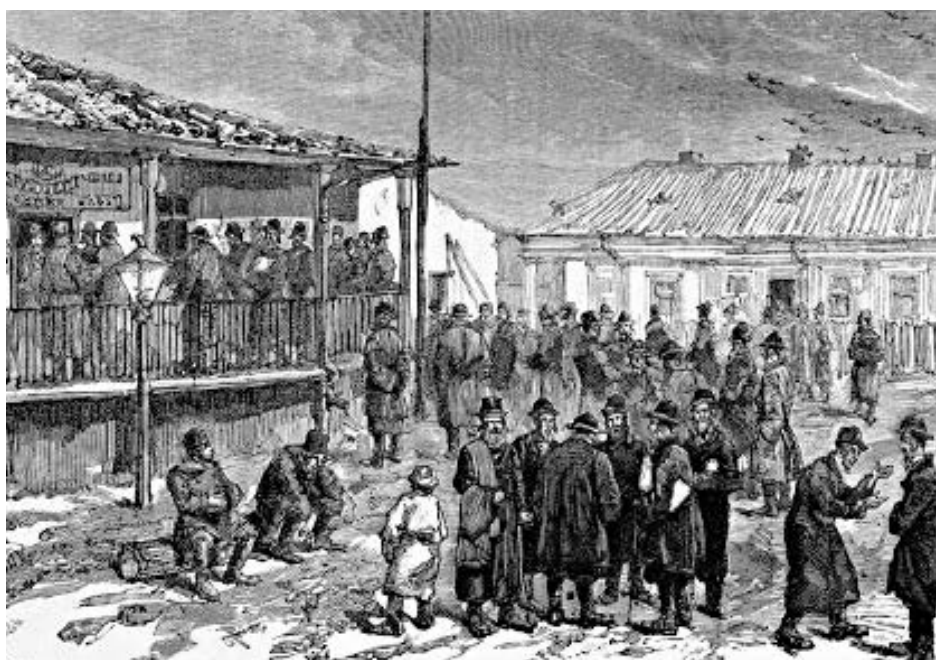
The excerpt below is from Leon Trotsky's *The Balkan Wars* (1912-13), one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* in November. Trotsky, living in exile in Vienna, covered the war as a correspondent for a Kiev socialist newspaper. The chapter "The Jewish Question" details the place of Jew-hatred in feudal Romania, strikingly similar to scapegoating and attacks on Jews today as the crisis of capitalism deepens.

Trotsky, one of the leaders of the 1917 Russian Revolution, fought to defend and advance the revolutionary course of V.I. Lenin and the Bolshevik Party against the political counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin. Until his assassination in 1940, he fought to build an international movement capable of leading the working class and its allies to power. Copyright © 1980 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

In nothing is Romania revealed so completely and authentically as in her Jewish Question. King Carol is proud that he has never departed from the "strictly constitutional" path. The Romanian press enjoys great freedom, and from time to time employs quite incredible "expressions" when writing about the king, without suffering any consequences. In this country ministers are not addressed as "Excellency."



"All Romania is revealed in the country's Jewish Question," wrote Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky in August 1913 in a series on the Balkan wars. "Anti-Semitism has become the state religion." Above, Jews register for citizenship at police station in Iasi, Romania, in 1880s.

Political émigrés are not handed over. But beneath this gilded surface of political freedoms is hidden the real, the true Romania — and while this is most profoundly revealed in the situation of the peasantry, it is seen most vividly in the Jewish Question.

Three hundred thousand Romanian Jews are not considered Romanian citizens. They, their fathers, and their grandfathers, were born in Romania. They were not and are not under the protection of any other state. And yet, nevertheless, they are treated as foreigners in Romania. The Romanian Jew enjoys no protection from the constitution. Any Jew can at any moment be expelled from the country like a wandering vagabond. Families that have grown up with Romania over several generations never cease to be aware that they are only lodgers. But that is not the whole of it.

While excluding the Jews from the roll of citizens, the state nevertheless burdens them with all the responsibilities of citizenship. Not only do the Jews have to pay all taxes, they are also liable for military service. Though declared to be aliens, they serve in the Romanian army. The state, which denies to the Jewish worker, craftsman, or merchant the title of Romanian citizen — the elementary right possessed by every pick-pocket of Romanian stock — this same state called to the colors 30,000 rightless Jews during the recent mobilization.

All Romania is revealed in the country's Jewish Question. The servile bondage of the peasantry, the parasitism on

state funds, the rule of the boyar-*ciocoi* cliques — all this finds its crown in the qualified rightlessness of Romanian Jewry.

Romania is ruled by Purishkevich. He is the master of Romania's soil, he thrusts his arm up to the elbow into the state's cashbox, the social and political atmosphere here is filled with his mental and moral exhalations. Purishkevich "hates" the Jews. But this is a special sort of hatred. Without Jews Purishkevich couldn't get by. And he knows this very well. He needs Jews. But of what sort? Jews without rights, deprived of individuality by their lack of rights. This sort of Jew has to serve as intermediary between Purishkevich as landlord and the peasantry, between Purishkevich as politician and his clientele — to serve in the capacity of leaseholder, usurer, middleman, or venal journalist. He has to fulfill the dirtiest commissions for Purishkevich — and Purishkevich has no other kind — and to keep at it.

But that's not all. While serving as a tool of feudal exploitation, the rightless Jew has at the same time to serve as lightning-conductor for the wrath of the exploited. After fleecing the peasant and pillaging the state's till, replenished by that same peasant, Romania's Purishkevich then fulfills his highest destiny when, from the orator's tribune, or in the columns of his press, he angrily denounces the Jewish leaseholder, the Jewish usurer. ... This is the basis in serfdom of Romanian anti-Semitism. But that does not exhaust the matter. In

a stagnant society in which economic development, entangled in obstacles, makes only slow progress, a multitude of unsatisfied demands urge various groups of people along the line of least resistance — the line of anti-Semitism. The *ciocoi*, the new landowners, who have bought or leased boyars' lands, naturally seek to concentrate rural usury in their own national, Christian, true Romanian hands.

Driven from the countryside, the Jews make up nearly a third of the population in Romania's towns. The craftsman, the shopkeeper, the restaurant-keeper, and with them the doctor and the journalist, are embittered by the competition from Jews. The lawyer, the official, the officer are all afraid that if the Jews obtained equal rights they will take away their clients or step into their jobs. The teacher and the priest, agents in the countryside of the national state idea bound up with serfdom, assure the peasant that his poverty and servitude are caused by the Jews. The newspaper, in so far as it reaches the peasant, tells him the same thing. Anti-Semitism has become the state religion, the last psychological cement holding together a feudal society that is rotten through and through, and covered over with the gilt tinsel of a constitution essentially based on privilege. ...

Jewish children are not accepted in the state primary schools. They are accepted in secondary educational institutions only if there are "vacant" places, which in practice means almost never. The Jews have set up their own schools, using their own resources. A wall is thus raised between Jewish and Romanian children; and yet at the same time the powers that be make it a condition for "granting" civil rights to the Jews that they become merged in Romanian society. Recent agitation has been started against the Jewish private schools, simply because they raise the cultural level of the Jewish masses, and it is quite obvious that, the higher their cultural level, the greater the danger that the Jews, suffering from lack of rights, will present for the rotten Romanian state. As for those Jewish workers who take part in the economic or political struggle of their class, the government whose turn it is chases them across the frontier by dozens and hundreds as "undesirable aliens." Even in the hospitals, Jews are treated as second-class patients. And so on, without end.

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# Protest attacks on Muslims, mosques!

## Continued from front page

Muslims as they increase spying on Muslim organizations and infiltration of mosques. With this they are moving to restrict political rights of all at home and increase use of spies, frame-ups and cop disruption.

Examples include:

- ♦ Calls for the New York Police Department to step up spy programs initiated after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that sent undercover cops into Muslim neighborhoods to spy on conversations and compile detailed files on where people ate, prayed and shopped. Mosques are a special target in this effort.

- ♦ 31 governors — Democrats and Republicans alike — say they will not accept refugees from Syria in their states.

- ♦ The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill which, if enacted into law, would delay acceptance of Syrian refugees until each individual is signed-off on by the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and the Director of National Intelligence. The rulers already have in place a vetting requirement that takes two years before a refugee can get in.

- ♦ Leading Republican presidential contender Donald Trump calls for registering all Muslims in a special government database, says that cops should infiltrate the mosques and forcibly shut down those they deem suspicious and favors reintroduction of waterboarding while interrogating suspected terrorists.

- ♦ The Democratic Party mayor of Roanoke, Virginia, backing measures to restrict the entrance of refugees, pointed to the example of the internment of

U.S. citizens of Japanese origin during World War II.

In this atmosphere, threats and attacks on Muslims are spreading from San Diego to Brooklyn.

There are some 1.6 billion Muslims in the world. The U.S. rulers argue through their big business media that Islamic State and its supporters are growing like wildfire. But the reality is that the reactionary outfit is a tiny cult, hated by Muslims worldwide. Muslims have mounted protests against the IS attacks in Paris itself and from India to Belgium.

Muslims and Arabs are the biggest victims of IS terror, and of Washington's brutal response.

When a section of the population comes under attack as Muslims are today, the working-class vanguard must immediately come to their defense. We oppose the U.S. rulers' campaign to curb the constitutionally guaranteed space for political organization and activity and to step up the use of U.S. military intervention in the affairs of working people abroad.

The ultimate target of the rulers' assault on Muslims is the working class.

The New York Socialist Workers Party, and the Socialist Workers Party nationwide, is taking this fight against Washington's war drive and in opposition to their witch hunt against Muslims and mosques to working-class neighborhoods across New York City, to workers fighting for \$15 and a union, participants in Black Friday protests at Walmart stores demanding higher pay and regular schedules, to those protesting assaults by the cops and ultra-rightists, and more.

Join us.

# Washington, Paris ramp up war moves

## Continued from front page

ings against IS targets and says more U.S. special forces are on the way. British Prime Minister David Cameron met with French President Francois Hollande Nov. 23, asserting his "firm conviction" that U.K. forces should join in the bombing.

Moscow has also intensified bombings, hitting nearly 500 targets over the Nov. 21-22 weekend. The Russian government has targeted not only Islamic State, but used most of its firepower to bomb other opponents of the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad, including forces backed by Washington.

The challenge of putting together a "grand alliance" of capitalist powers with competing interests was highlighted Nov. 24 when a Turkish fighter jet shot down a Russian warplane that Ankara says entered Turkish airspace. Turkey — a NATO member — had been demanding Moscow stop bombing Turkmen forces on Syria's northern border opposed to Assad's rule.

Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened "serious consequences," saying Moscow had been stabbed in the back by "the accomplices of terrorists."

Hollande met with President Barack Obama Nov. 24, urging closer collaboration with Moscow in the fight against Islamic State. He travels next to Moscow to meet Putin.

Even before the assault in Paris, the White House had been seeking ways to forge a bloc with the Russian and Iranian governments to stabilize Syria and Iraq and impose a new balance of power in the region.

Obama faces bipartisan calls to take more aggressive military action. Democratic Party presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton called on Congress to authorize expanded use of military force against Islamic State Nov. 19, saying, "We should get this done." Three days later Dianne Feinstein, top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said, "I don't think the approach is sufficient. ... We need to be aggressive." Republican Sen. John McCain called for sending ground troops to Syria, as have many of the Republican presidential candidates.

## Paris extends police powers

Immediately after the terrorist attacks on civilians at a rock concert, a soccer game and several restaurants, Hollande imposed a state of emergency, giving authorities broad power to search homes, place individuals under house arrest, ban demonstrations, dissolve organizations deemed subversive and block In-

ternet sites they claim advocate terrorism.

The French National Assembly voted 551 to 6 Nov. 19 to extend the state of emergency for three months. "We believe the extension is warranted and necessary," said André Chassaigne of the Communist Party, placing the party's Left Front parliamentary bloc firmly in defense of the French capitalist state.

Heavily armed police have been breaking down doors in Muslim communities across France, interrogating people at will. As of Nov. 23, police say they have carried out 1,072 warrantless searches, detained 117 people and placed about 180 under house arrest.

Cops searched thousands of workers' lockers at Air France Cargo, FedEx and caterer Servair at the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris. *L'Express* reported they found "elements of proselytizing and some signs of radicalization," such as prayer rugs and copies of the Koran "annotated along radical or fundamentalist lines." Authorities revoked security badges for 58 workers, effectively putting them out of work.

The state of emergency has been used to ban a large, union-sponsored environmental rally planned for Paris Nov. 29, on the eve of the U.N. summit on climate change in the French capital, and a "Rally with Muslims of France for Peace and National Unity," organized to oppose both the Islamic State attacks and scapegoating of Muslims, planned for Nov. 20 near the Grand Mosque in Paris.

A similar rally was allowed to go ahead in Toulouse the next day and drew 10,000 Muslims and others.

Most workers who are Muslim despise Islamic State and its terrorist methods. "These people are fanatics and have nothing to do with any religion. My neighbors say the same thing," Abdel Kheddouma, an auto assembly plant worker near Paris, told the *Militant*.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve Nov. 16 vowed to increase surveillance and shut "mosques where hate is preached."

Widespread police raids are also taking place in neighboring Belgium. Authorities locked down Brussels, the capital, closing schools, stores and the metro transit system for several days, after Prime Minister Charles Michel claimed there was a "serious and imminent" threat of an attack.

## Scapegoating of Muslims

In Washington the House of Representatives voted by a two-to-one margin to suspend the government program that allows refugees from Syria and Iraq to

## Israel-Palestine is complicated

The first sentence of Seth Galinsky's Nov. 2 article (Attacks on Jews, Israeli Gov't Brutal Response Deal Blow to the Working Class) more fully captures the complexity of the conflict than most complete articles. The Israeli-Palestinian crisis is deeply complicated, with sorrows on either side. Your article and editorial provides perspective on that — as well as an important working-class point of view.

*Mitch Horowitz*

*New York, New York*

## Apartheid-type occupation

I am very glad to read your analysis of Russia and Ukraine. It seems that you are very sensitive to the issues of imperialism and occupation of one country by another. However, I miss this kind of analysis regarding Israel and Palestine. It seems you ignore the fact that whatever the Palestinians are doing, this is after 60 years of occupation, of miserable apartheid-type occupation. Of course anti-Semitism is wrong, dangerous, etc. But so is apartheid, occupation, destruction of homes, illegal settlements etc. Palestinians should not be paying the price for European anti-Semitism.

*Nina Sakun*

*Hartford, Connecticut*

## Bring Jews and Arabs together

I had searched in vain for a Marxist or socialist analysis of Israel-Palestine, when an American friend sent me links to your recent coverage. Other left-leaning publications and organizations offer simplistic articles with no criticism of Palestinian leadership or lack thereof and the terrible (and self-defeating) actions we've seen lately, and at other junctures.

These are not only criminal atrocities, but drive deeper wedges between Jewish and Arab peoples, and must be condemned in the strongest manner.

We Israeli socialists and human-rights activists were hopeful 20 years ago. Israeli trade unionists, in particular, had shown (and still do) the capacity to organize and fight alongside their Arab brothers. Many forces are responsible for the dreadful trends of recent years, but certainly Hamas and other Islamists deserve a large amount of blame.

It is not too late to bring together Jews, Arabs, and others in a workers movement for a just, nonsectarian society. Only by firmly rejecting hideous acts of terror, such as this wave of knife attacks, can unity be forged.

*Lev Abram David*

*Kiryat Arba, Israel*

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

enter the United States. Governors of 31 states, Democrats as well as Republicans, have said they want to prevent Syrians from coming to their states.

Since the attacks in France, Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump has put anti-Muslim demagoguery at the center of his campaign — calling for registering Muslims in a government database, closing mosques and claiming that "thousands" of Muslims in New Jersey cheered the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Rival candidate Marco Rubio said the government should be able not just to shut mosques, but "any place — whether it's a cafe, a diner, an Internet site — any place where radicals are being inspired."

Democrat David Bowers, mayor of Roanoke, Virginia, issued a statement Nov. 18 in support of barring Syrian refugees as a security measure comparable to the decision to "sequester Japanese foreign nationals" during World War II. When it got wide publicity, Bowers backtracked, apologizing.

"We must never let another group of people be singled out and punished because of their race or religion," Roz Tonai, director of the National Japanese American Historical Society, told the *Militant* Nov. 23. Mosques in Omaha, Nebraska; St. Petersburg, Florida; and Portland, Oregon, have been vandalized or threatened. Some 200 residents of all nationalities rallied in solidarity with the Islamic Center of Pflugerville, Texas, Nov. 21 after worshipers found the doorway splattered with feces and torn pages of the Koran.