

THE MILITANT

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Active Workers Conference
discusses road forward
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 28 AUGUST 1, 2016

After failed coup, Turkish gov't launches crackdown

BY MARK THOMPSON

A failed coup attempt July 15 in Turkey, a key partner in Washington's NATO alliance, illustrates the instability of the old imperialist order in the Middle East. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan moved immediately to crack down on opponents in the military, police and civil service.

The coup by a small group within the armed forces was defeated in 24 hours with the aid of senior military and police commanders and thousands of supporters who responded to calls from mosques to take to the streets. All opposition political parties condemned it, including the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), a target of vicious repression by Erdogan's government. "Coups
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Paris uses Nice terror attack to undermine workers' rights

BY EMMA JOHNSON

French President Francois Hollande is using the July 14 terrorist attack in Nice to press his assault on civil liberties and the space to organize public protests, with a special edge against working people of the Muslim faith. He immediately announced the extension of the state of emergency that has been in place since November.

Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, of
Continued on page 8

Workers need own party, independent of the bosses



Dana Bunch, left, resident of Helper, Utah, discusses problems of workers there who face mine closings, and how capitalist crisis affects workers around world, with Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, and campaign supporter Anthony Dutrow.

'Join us,' says Socialist Workers Party candidate

BY JOHN STUDER

BURLINGTON, Vt. — "Workers need a revolutionary party to organize to lead the fight for working-class political power, and that's what we are." That's what people here heard Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, say when they tuned into the local NBC evening news July 15.

"No matter who is elected Nov. 8, the ruling rich will continue to try to make working people pay for the crisis of capitalism," said Hart at a press conference outside Burlington City Hall that morning. "A deeper economic, moral and political catastrophe is coming, more wars in more countries," until the working class is able to replace their rule, he said.

Hart was joined by Jacob Perasso, a
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'Capitalist crisis is going to get worse'

BY MAGGIE TROWE

SALT LAKE CITY — Backers of the Socialist Workers Party crisscrossed Utah discussing the party's revolutionary perspective with workers in more than 20 towns and cities from June 25 to July 17, part of nationwide campaigning for the SWP.

"The higher-ups have a parasitic setup where they try to suck as much out of us as possible," Debra Leeftang, a retired university worker, told SWP campaigner Bill Estrada as they talked on her porch here. Leeftang comes from a family of union coal miners.

"I wonder why the wealthy act this way when it means workers can't buy the goods we produce," she said. "Don't they understand their own
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Thousands at funerals keep spotlight on cop brutality

BY SETH GALINSKY

The funerals of Alton Sterling, shot dead by cops July 5 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Philando Castile, killed by an officer the next day near St. Paul, Minnesota, were attended by thousands, keeping the national spotlight on police brutality. Meanwhile, defenders of the cops are trying to use

STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT
AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY
— Editorial, page 8

assassinations of police by individuals in Dallas and Baton Rouge to undermine this fight.

In Minnesota, as Castile's casket was carried out of the Cathedral of St. Paul July 14, pall bearers and others in the crowd raised clenched fists in the air. Afterwards his family hosted a community picnic at J.J. Hill Montessori School, where Castile worked as a cafeteria supervisor. His co-workers and fellow Teamster union members
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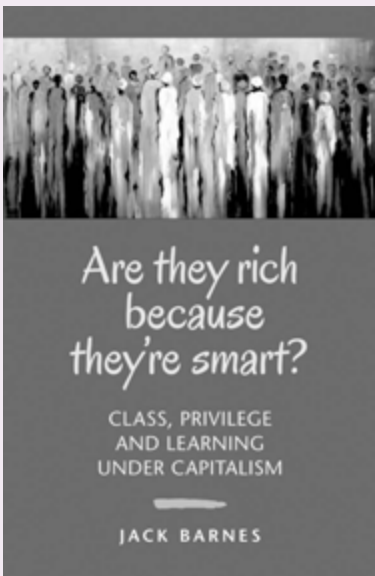
Thomas Altfather Good

July 17 Staten Island anniversary of cop killing of Eric Garner. "When Black lives matter, all lives matter," was a chant that day.

Are they rich because they're smart?

Class, privilege and learning under capitalism

by Jack Barnes



In the coming battles forced upon us by the capitalist rulers, says Barnes, workers will begin to transform ourselves and our attitudes toward life, work and each other. Only then will we discover our own worth and learn what we're capable of becoming.

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Mine Workers call Sept. 8 rally to stop cuts in retiree benefits

BY DAN FEIN

The United Mine Workers of America has called a national rally in Washington Sept. 8 demanding passage of the Miners Protection Act to prevent the cutting off of health care and pension benefits for retired coal miners and their spouses and dependents.

The union is organizing "dozens of buses to bring miners from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Alabama, Pennsylvania and Ohio," Phil Smith, UMW Director of Govern-
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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Wash. berry pickers demand union contract at Sakuma Bros.

Protest 3 years after Quebec disaster: 'Reroute trains!'

Black farmers still losing land, says protest in DC

BY GLOVA SCOTT

WASHINGTON — Some 25 farmers and supporters from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma and North Carolina protested in front of the U.S. Supreme Court July 8, in solidarity with hog farmers Eddie and Dorothy Wise and to highlight discrimination against Black farmers. The Wises were evicted from their 106-acre farm near Whitakers, North Carolina, Jan. 20 by several county sheriffs and 14 federal marshals armed with assault rifles.

The Wises took out loans to buy the farm in 1996 and eventually built it up to raise 250 hogs. In 2012 their loan request was turned down. The Wises told the court that U.S. Department of Agriculture loan managers had approved farm operating plans of “similarly situated white Caucasian livestock farmers” and that racism was behind the rejection.

The USDA filed suit in 2014 to foreclose on the farm, saying that the Wises owed \$530,000 in principal and more than \$60,000 in interest. The Wises’ attempt to win a hearing and debt relief were denied.

The Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association reports that the Wise farm was sold in auction in April.

At a 2008 meeting of Black farmers in Whitakers, attended by the *Militant*, Eddie Wise spoke on a panel discussing what is known as the *Pigford* Consent Decree, the settlement of a class-action lawsuit that challenged discrimination by the USDA. The government agreed to end discriminatory practices in loans and to compensate farmers who had been previously denied. More than

80,000 Black farmers filed for redress. But even after the settlement, Wise told the panel, “If they see you coming, and you’re Black, the answer is still no.” “Equal justice under the law does not exist for Blacks and poor people,” Eddie Slaughter, president of the American Agriculturalist Association, said at the July 8 rally. “We are still losing land,” said Gary Grant, president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association. Others speaking at the rally included Cory Lee of the Cowtown Foundation; Laurence Lucas, former president of the USDA Coalition of Minority Employees; and Bernice Atchison, president of the Black Farmers Association of Chilton County, Alabama.

US gov’t tries to use S. China Sea ruling against Beijing

BY EMMA JOHNSON

A long-expected ruling by an international court in the Hague in favor of the Philippine government against Beijing over use of resources in the South China Sea will do nothing to end the tensions in one of the world’s busiest trade routes. But Washington is seeking to use the decision to bolster U.S. imperialism’s domination of the region.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration July 12 found that the Chinese government had violated the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea by interfering with Philippine fishing and petroleum exploration and by constructing artificial islands



John Biewen for the Scene on Radio podcast
Eddie Wise holds papers handed to him by federal marshals Jan. 20. He and his wife Dorothy were ordered to leave their North Carolina farm with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

within Philippine territory. Chinese officials declared that the ruling is “null and void and has no binding force.” Beijing argues the disputes should be solved by bilateral agreements between the nations involved, and that this is made more difficult by Washington’s high-profiled military presence in the waters. Washington hypocritically has called on China to comply, something the U.S. rulers themselves have never done when an international court has ruled against their interests. In 1986, for example, the Nicaraguan government won a ruling in the International Court of Justice against the U.S. military mining Nicaraguan harbors. Washington refused to abide by the decision, and on six occasions vetoed resolutions in the United Nations Security Council demanding it comply with the verdict. Daniel Kritenbrink, the top White House adviser on Asia, said Washington wants to uphold a “rules-based international order” in the South China Sea. “He said that the international legal order could unravel, threatening 70 years of regional stability,” the Associated Press reported July 12. Since

the U.S. came out of World War II as the leading imperialist power, its rulers have imposed their “international legal order” in the Pacific. This is now challenged by China’s growing economic and military weight. Washington is using the territorial disputes to strengthen its alliances against Beijing. The South Korean Defense Ministry announced July 8 that it had decided the location for a U.S. anti-ballistic missile system to be deployed “soon,” a move that has drawn fierce criticism from the Chinese government. Earlier this year Washington began permanently stationing U.S. warplanes in the Philippines. The Vietnamese government has also increased its military cooperation with Washington. Meanwhile, European Union foreign spokesperson Federica Mogherini announced July 15 that the 28 member states couldn’t agree on a statement supporting the court’s findings. Diplomats involved in the discussions told the *Wall Street Journal* that representatives of Croatia, Hungary and Greece wouldn’t sign, worried about hurting their economic ties with China.

THE MILITANT

‘U.S. troops and bases out of Okinawa!’

The U.S. government has maintained military bases on the island of Okinawa, Japan, since the end of World War II. The ‘Militant’ covers Washington’s moves to bolster U.S. imperialism’s domination of the Pacific today amid growing economic and political rivalry with Beijing.

Kyodo/Reuters
Over 50,000 people rallied in Okinawa, Japan, June 19 demanding ‘U.S. troops out!’

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Workers need own party

Continued from front page
rail worker who is the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New York and one of the organizers of a team of supporters going door to door across Vermont. In the course of campaigning for the party, more than 1,800 people signed to put the SWP ticket on the ballot.

Some people they met joined in. Perasso and other supporters knocked on Yam Tiwani's door in Winooski. He got a subscription to the *Militant*, and then took them down to the nearby soap plant where he works to meet some of his co-workers on their break.

"In Vermont, the laws are stacked against working-class parties," Perasso told the press. "It's simply not credible that so many of the workers we've talked to in their homes and on their doorsteps are not being counted as valid," referring to the rejection of many signatures by town clerks across the state.

"Of the 789 signatures submitted to nine clerks, they have validated 349, or 44 percent," Attorney Paul Gillies, representing the SWP, wrote to Vermont Secretary of State James Condos July 14. "This number doesn't make sense on the doorstep of peoples' homes and apartments."

"I want to represent the people who signed the petitions for the Socialist Workers Party," Dorothy Coe de Hernandez, a retired teacher, told the press. "Any party that gets 1,800 signatures

should be put on the ballot. This upsets me!"

When Hart, Perasso, Coe and other supporters got in line to hand in their petitions, with the press in tow, Jared Carter, a professor at the Vermont Law School waiting to pay some taxes, asked what was going on.

"If the signatures of a bunch of people who signed your petition are being rejected, that's terrible," Carter told them. "That means they're being disenfranchised. But the right to vote for who you want is fundamental to the Bill of Rights."

The *Burlington Free Press* covered the campaign in a July 18 article headlined, "Socialist Workers Party seeks new recruits in Vermont." Vermont Public Radio also reported on the party's news conference.

After filing their petitions, supporters went back to campaigning across the state.

In addition to meeting a number of workers who want to get involved in future party campaigning in Vermont, over the last month supporters sold 216 copies of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* Pathfinder Press' new book by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes, and 127 subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Another round of campaigning in Vermont is being planned in coming weeks, including a return visit to the



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Soap factory worker Yam Tiwani, left, talks with SWP vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart and Sergio Zambrana in Winooski, Vermont, July 14. Inset, Hart speaks to reporters at news conference the next day before turning in ballot petitions in Burlington. With him from left are Zambrana, Dorothy Coe de Hernandez and Jacob Perasso.

soap plant, as the SWP collects their petitions from town clerks to present to the Secretary of State before the Aug. 1 deadline.



Militant/Paul Mailhot

Capitalist crisis will get worse

Continued from front page
greed contributes to the crisis?"

"They have no choice," Estrada said. "Their only way out of the crisis is to attack the working class. That's why we have to build a revolutionary movement, independent of the bosses and their political parties."

Leefflang bought a couple books — *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* and *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism* — as well as a subscription to the *Militant* to learn more about the SWP and its program.

SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy campaigned in the Salt Lake Valley and in the coal-mining area

around Price, Utah. The *Salt Lake Tribune* interviewed her in a July 14 article titled, "Workers can change America, prez candidate tells Utahns," and sent a photographer to accompany her campaigning door to door.

One of the people SWP supporters met in Helper, a small town outside Price, was Dana Bunch, an unemployed 31-year-old single mother. She was glad to learn there was a party discussing how working people can organize under today's depression-driven conditions. Bunch expressed concern with the treatment of veterans of U.S. wars, speaking from the experience of friends and family members. She got a subscription and book and signed a petition to put the SWP candidates on the ballot.

A short while later, Bunch welcomed a visit from Kennedy, who had been talking with a retired miner in the neighborhood. "We need more attention to communities devastated by the decline in coal production, like Helper," Bunch told the SWP candidate.

Kennedy, who worked as a coal miner for many years and was one of the leaders of a union organizing drive and strike at the nearby Co-Op mine a decade ago, said it's important to look at what's happening in Utah in the context of the crisis facing working people around the world.

"I think you're right," Bunch replied. "They want us to focus on home — not what's going on in the world, and the wars."

Socialist Workers Party campaigners also went door to door in Kanab, a small town in southwest Utah's vast cattle-ranching region, where thousands of tourists pass through each year. Hundreds of people attended the Feb. 5 funeral in Kanab of rancher Robert "LaVoy" Finicum. He was a leader of the occupation at the Malheur Wildlife Refuge near Burns, Oregon, protest-

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Socialist Workers Party candidates Alyson Kennedy for president and
Osborne Hart for vice president at www.themilitant.com

ing the imprisonment of local ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond and the problems ranchers face from federal encroachment on their right to raise livestock. Finicum was killed by state police in Oregon Jan. 26 as he was headed to a community meeting to explain the goal of the occupation.

Twenty-six people are currently facing federal charges connected to the Malheur refuge occupation, including Kanab resident Shawna Cox, who was riding with Finicum when he was killed.

Opinions in Kanab are divided on the refuge occupation in Oregon. The owner-mechanics at a small all-terrain vehicle rental business said to avoid friction they seldom discuss what happened to Finicum, but added they think his death at the hands of the cops was unjustified.

Working people in the town also wanted to discuss what the working class is facing worldwide. Else Talboys, a retired teacher, told SWP campaigner Dennis Richter that as a child she attended school in the Philippines. She said being exposed to other people's countries and cultures opened her eyes

to what the world's workers face. She blamed consumerism as a main problem facing working people.

Richter replied that capitalism markets commodities to workers by sowing the illusion that our worth as humans is measured by what we buy. Talboys subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?*

Workers interested in the party and its program bought 210 copies of that book, as well as 179 subscriptions to the *Militant*, over three weeks of campaigning in Utah. Some 1,670 people signed the petition to put the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart on the ballot, well over the 1,000 requirement.

At a July 17 barbecue to celebrate the campaigning effort more than \$800 was collected to offset expenses, and another \$170 was contributed during door-to-door campaigning. Three workers who met the Socialist Workers Party at their doorsteps attended the event.

Joel Britton, Anthony Dutrow and Mary Martin contributed to this article.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Clintons' Anti-Labor Legacy: Workers Still Battered by 1996 Welfare Cuts. Speaker: Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 29, 7:30 p.m. 2826 S. Vermont, Suite 1. Tel.: (323) 643-4968.

CANADA

Calgary

From NATO in Latvia to Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan: Why Working People Should Oppose Trudeau's War. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League. Fri., July 29, 7:30 p.m. Dragon City Mall, 328 Centre St. SE, Unit 246. Tel.: (403) 457-9044.

Montreal

Washington Pressures Latin America: Oppose Capitalist Economic Sabotage and Moves to Oust Maduro Government in Venezuela. Speaker: Philippe Tessier, Communist League, recently returned from Caracas, Venezuela. Fri., July 29, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

Raúl Castro: ‘Cuba is in good shape to confront challenges’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Speaking at Cuba’s National Assembly of People’s Power July 8, Cuban President Raúl Castro outlined steps being taken by the revolutionary government to confront new economic challenges, as Washington maintains its 55-year-long embargo of the island.

In the first half of this year, Cuba’s gross domestic product grew by 1 percent, half of what was planned, said Castro, in part because of lower income from exports of nickel, sugar and refined oil, as commodity prices worldwide plummeted.

There’s also been a limited “reduction in the supply of fuel contracted with Venezuela,” Castro said, “despite the resolute intention of President Nicolás Maduro and his government to fulfill this commitment.”

Castro made clear that Cuba’s solidarity with Venezuela “will not be weakened in the slightest.” Some 46,000 volunteer Cuban health workers, teachers and others are working in Venezuela, where working people face attempts by

pro-imperialist parties to take advantage of a deep capitalist economic crisis. “Cubans will never forget the support we received from the Venezuelan people when we were confronting great difficulties,” he said.

The U.S. embargo “remains in full force,” Castro said. More than three months ago President Barack Obama announced that “the prohibition on Cuba’s use of the dollar in international transactions would be eliminated,” Castro said, but this has not been done.

As expected, “predictions of an imminent collapse of our economy and a return to the most acute phase of the special period we faced at the beginning of the 1990s have begun to appear,” Castro said, referring to the difficulties Cuba faced when the country lost 85 percent of its foreign trade virtually overnight with the collapse of the Soviet Union. “We were able to overcome this thanks to the capacity of resistance of the Cuban people and their unlimited confidence in Fidel and the party.” While there will be difficulties “we are prepared and in bet-



Juventud Rebelde/José M. Correa

Cuban health workers in Venezuela, among 46,000 volunteer doctors, teachers and others there today. Cuba’s solidarity with Venezuela “will not be weakened,” Castro said.

ter shape” to face them than in the ’90s.

“There is no room for improvisation or defeatism,” the Cuban president said. “To victoriously overcome a moment like this requires acting with a great deal of energy, equanimity and political intelligence and sensitivity, and continuing to improve the coordination between the [Communist] party and the government, and above all, with a lot of optimism and confidence in the present

and future of the revolution.”

It’s necessary to reduce expenses on everything “that is not indispensable,” Castro said. This includes cutting electricity usage by 6 percent and fuel by 28 percent in the state sector. There are no reductions planned in residential areas.

“We’re maintaining the social programs achieved by the revolution for our people and we’re adopting measures with the aim of gradually increasing their quality,” Castro said.

One outstanding example of this are the measures taken to counter Zika and other mosquito-borne viruses by mobilizing thousands of workers and students. There has been only one locally transmitted Zika case, Castro reported, with 22 others detected in individuals entering from another country. Dengue, which was present in 14 provinces, is now present in only one municipality in Guantánamo province.

‘Militant’ scores partial win in prison censorship fight

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant* has scored a partial victory in the fight against censorship of two recent issues by Florida state prison authorities, but the fight is still on. Prison officials backed off July 13 from the impoundment of one issue, claiming it “was done in error.”

At the end of June a subscriber at the Santa Rosa Correctional Institute informed the *Militant* that he was being denied the issue dated June 13. Authorities falsely claimed “hang/gang signs” appeared on a page that included an article and photo on a peaceful demonstration in Puerto Rico demanding U.S. authorities free Oscar López. López has been incarcerated in the U.S. for 35 years for supporting independence for Puerto Rico.

The May 30 issue, with an article,

“Prisoners Strike to Protest Abuse and Little or No Pay in Alabama,” was also impounded at Santa Rosa and at the Northwest Florida Reception Center.

The *Militant*’s attorney David Goldstein, from the law firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, filed an appeal July 7 requesting the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee reverse these decisions and deliver the papers to the subscribers.

The “error” in impounding the June

13 issue has been corrected and the paper “had been issued to the inmate,” wrote the department’s Library Services Administrator Dean Peterson July 13. At its next meeting the Literature Review Committee will “re-review” its decision that “rejected” the May 30 issue, he said.

“Prisoners have First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and press,” wrote Mary Ratcliff, editor of *San Francisco Bay View*, in a July 12 statement condemning the impoundment of the *Militant*. “Being locked away from the world, they more urgently need to know a greater variety of perspectives on the news than they see on TV.”

“Publishers, too, have First Amendment rights,” she said, “and a moral obligation to see that their newspapers reach all their subscribers, including those behind bars.” Papers like the *Militant*, the *Bay View* and *Prison Legal News* have been involved in censorship fights with prison authorities, while “mainstream papers are delivered to their subscribers with coverage of the same stories found objectionable in our papers,” Ratcliff wrote.

Fight prison censorship

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— CALENDAR —

ILLINOIS

Chicago

End Washington’s Blockade, Return Guantánamo! Celebrate and Defend Cuba. Speakers: Arnetta Grable, Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality, recently returned from Cuba; José López, brother of Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López, director of Puerto Rican Cultural Center; Dr. Tom Hansen, director, El Centro Autónomo; Rixio Barrios, deputy, Consulate of Venezuela. Thurs., July 28, 7:30 p.m. *El Centro Autónomo*, 3460 W. Lawrence. Tel.: (312) 952-2618. Sponsor: Chicago Cuba Coalition.

NEW YORK

New York

Celebration of the Assault on Moncada Barracks: the Event that Launched the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Ana Silvia Rodríguez, Deputy Cuban Ambassador to the U.N.; Dr. Rosemary Mealy; Juanita Young, longtime activist against police brutality. Fri., July 22. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. *The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center*, 3940 Broadway. Tel.: (917) 887-8710. Sponsor: Cuba Solidarity Committee.

Celebrate the 63rd Anniversary of the Opening of the Cuban Revolution ... and the Coming American Revolution. Fundraising benefit for the Socialist Workers Party in New York. Sat., July 30. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 7 p.m. \$15 donation. 227 W. 29th St., 6th floor. Tel.: (646) 922-8186.

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Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

A Necessary Debate

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Why revolutionary struggles by working people are inevitable, initiated not by the toilers, but forced upon us by the employing class’s crisis-driven assaults on our living standards and job conditions — on our very humanity. \$7

Also in Spanish, French, Farsi

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world!

This column gives a voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including unionists striking US Foods, workers locked out by Honeywell, construction workers demanding safe conditions and workers fighting for \$15 an hour and a union. 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

Wash. berry pickers demand union contract at Sakuma Bros.

BURLINGTON, Wash. — Some 300 supporters of the independent farmworkers union Familias Unidas por la Justicia marched to the Sakuma Brothers Farms offices here July 11 demanding a union contract. The march marked the third anniversary of a walkout by berry pickers that led to the union's formation. Around a third of the marchers were farmworkers and their families, who joined as they got off work in the fields.

In early June over 120 strawberry pickers walked out of Sakuma's fields for a day, winning a raise from 20 cents a pound to 24 cents, but workers say that's still not enough.

On July 8 Sakuma Farms announced to the press that they will meet with Familias Unidas to discuss holding a union election. Sakuma Bros. CEO Danny Weeden said in a press release that "just because FUJ is claiming to represent employees doesn't mean it's true."

"We have what we need, the support of workers and the support of many others," Ramón Torres, president of Familias Unidas, said at the July 11 protest.

Torres said that the union would continue to back a boycott of Driscoll's, a big agribusiness corporation that contracts with capitalist farmers in the San Quintin Valley of Baja Califor-

nia, Mexico; in California; and Washington. Workers in Mexico are also waging a fight for union recognition. Driscoll's distributes berries from Sakuma Brothers. "We want a just contract for both unions," Torres said.

More information on Familias Unidas can be found at www.boycott-sakumaberries.com.

—Clay Dennison



Militant/Clay Dennison

Farmworkers and supporters march to Sakuma office in Burlington, Washington, July 11.

Protest 3 years after Quebec disaster: 'Reroute trains!'

BY JOHN STEELE

LAC-MÉGANTIC, Quebec — Some 300 people from across Quebec marched here July 10 to demand that train tracks be rerouted around the town. The protest marked the third anniversary of the July 6, 2013, oil train disaster that killed 47 people and wiped out the downtown core.

"The prime minister [Justin Trudeau] has to come and announce as soon as possible the construction of the bypass track and, in the meantime, he needs to do something to repair the railroad, which is in a sorry state," said Robert Bellefleur, spokesperson for the Citizens and Groups Coalition for Rail Safety, which organized the protest.

"The MMA [now bankrupt Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway] destroyed our town," coalition activist Richard Poirier told the crowd. "But Transport Canada [the government agency that oversees rail transport] knew that the MMA was unsafe."

The destroyed area here remains a fenced-off wasteland. Freight trains from Central Maine and Quebec Railway, carrying hazardous cargo like propane and hydrochloric acid, continue to roll down the very tracks where the disaster occurred. At some point oil trains, which keep Central Maine and Quebec profitable, are due to start running again.

"The criminals responsible for this disaster should be prosecuted and driven out of the rail industry," said Fritz Edler, a retired Washington, D.C., Amtrak locomotive engineer, speaking for Railroad Workers United. "Today men whose policies determined what happened here are still running railways. And the government is scapegoating Tom Harding and Richard Labrie. The charges against them should be dropped."

Harding, the locomotive engineer of the runaway train in 2013, and Labrie, the train controller during the disaster, face frame-up charges of 47 counts of criminal negligence and could face life in prison if convicted. Both are members of United Steelworkers Local 1976. Their trial will likely begin in 2017. Montreal, Maine and Atlantic was running the train with a one man crew.

"The most notable omission in the TSB report was that the existence of a single train operator was not listed as a cause of the accident," said Bruce Campbell, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, referring to a Transportation Safety Board report after the disaster. "It was listed several times as a cause in draft versions of the TSB report. I've seen these drafts. Why was it erased?"

Rail safety across the country continues to deteriorate. Transportation Safety Board Chairperson Kathy Fox

told the *Globe and Mail* in an interview published May 29 that 2015 saw the highest number of runaway trains in years — 42 incidents, up from 30 in 2014 and well above the five-year average of 36 per year. Fox criticized Transport Canada for fully implementing only one of five safety recommendations coming out of its investigation of the Lac-Mégantic tragedy.

"I don't agree with having one engineer on the train. One person! And I don't think it's right to blame the workers for what happened," retired worker Patricia Marcoux said at the march.

"Harding is not responsible for the disaster. He did his job. We should get a petition to support him and get everyone to sign it," said Lac-Mégantic resident André Jacques.

Profit drive kills 5 laborers in UK

BY PAUL DAVIES

BIRMINGHAM, England — The devastating consequences of the bosses cutting corners on safety was highlighted by the deaths of five workers at the Hawkeswood Metal recycling plant here July 7.

Saibo Sillah, Ousman Jabbie, Mohammed Jangana, Alimano Jammeh and Bangaly Dukureh were employed as laborers by an agency. They were killed when six concrete blocks, each weighing a ton and a half, fell from a wall that was used to retain scrap metal, crushing them to death.

The plant remains closed and an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive is underway.

Hawkeswood was previously fined £50,000 (\$66,660) in 2012 for safety violations after a worker's arm was dragged into an unguarded machine at the plant.

"There have also been fires at the plant recently," said local resident Madeline Smith, a self-employed care worker, when members of the Communist League visited the area July 9. It took 100 firefighters to put out the blaze when metal, plastic and rubber at the plant caught fire in February.

"The company thinks they can get away with unsafe conditions by employing immigrants," said Smith. Four of the workers killed were from Gambia and one was from Senegal. "No one should have to work in these conditions."

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 26, 1991

Tens of thousands of trade unionists are expected to turn out for an AFL-CIO-sponsored Solidarity Day August 31 in Washington, D.C.

The event will include a march down Washington's Constitution Avenue to the Capitol, ending with a rally.

Traditional Labor Day celebrations in New York, Chicago, Detroit, and other cities have been canceled to increase participation in the August 31 action.

According to the *AFL-CIO News*, the goals of the day-long event are "legislation banning the permanent replacement of strikers, national health care reform, and full freedom of association abroad and at home — including full collective bargaining rights for public workers."



July 25, 1966

The U.S. Army has moved to court-martial three antiwar GIs before they could complete legal proceedings in the civilian courts which would seek to prevent the army from sending them to Vietnam. This new development in the case makes it doubly urgent for the antiwar movement nationally to come to their support.

The three GIs, Pfc. James Johnson, Pvt. Dennis Mora and Pvt. Davis Samas, are being held at Fort Dix, New Jersey, awaiting an investigative hearing on July 22 which will decide what kind of court martial they will face.

The soldiers announced, at a New York press conference on June 30, their plans to seek an injunction preventing the army from sending them to Vietnam.



July 26, 1941

By A DRAFTEE

Roosevelt's demand that Congress extend the length of the term of conscription does not express the sentiments of the men in the training camps.

The draftees are virtually unanimous in their opposition to serving any longer than the one year they were originally told they would have to serve.

Bad living conditions are not the things the draftees talk about today. Indeed, the man who does discuss them is looked upon as a griper. The questions which the men are discussing and worrying over are the big issues — the extension of the army term, the meaning of the war, the attitude and purpose of the administration.

SWP tells workers, ‘Our party is your party’

Conference presents road forward in face of irresolvable crisis of world capitalism

BY NAOMI CRAINE

OBERLIN, Ohio — From Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to the coal mining region of Utah, from small towns in Vermont to big cities like New York and Los Angeles, members of the Socialist Workers Party are going door to door in working-class neighborhoods saying, “Our party is your party.” They are finding more openness to communism than in decades, with many workers interested in what the party has to say.

This party-building work and the political foundations for it were the focus of the Active Workers Conference here June 16-18. Some 320 people participated from across the United States and other countries, including from Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

The conference discussed how Socialist Workers Party members invite people they meet door to door to join them at protests against police brutality, in defense of women’s right to choose abortion and on picket lines of workers on strike or locked out by the bosses. And they invite those they meet at protests and picket lines who are interested in a revolutionary working-class perspective to join them going door to door.

Intertwined with this campaigning, the party is organizing to get more members into industrial jobs and unions to strengthen the fight to organize the unorganized, to help get unions involved in social protests and to carry out communist political work in the unions.

Covers of the book *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes — newly published in English by Pathfinder Press and coming soon in Farsi, French and Spanish — adorned the speakers platform, along with covers of “It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System”: *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*.

These books explain how the economic crisis, wars and other brutalities of capitalism point to the need for the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class, said Mary-Alice Waters in her presentation “Party Building and the Cuban Revolution,” which opened the conference.

Defending the Cuban Revolution in the face of unrelenting attacks by U.S. imperialism is an integral part of build-



Conference discussed openness to communism among workers. Left, Chris Hoeppner, SWP organizer in Philadelphia, addresses conference. Right, SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy talks with mine mechanic Levi Jensen on his porch in Price, Utah, July 5.



Militant photos: Left, Mike Shur; right, Rose Engstrom

ing a revolutionary working-class party in the United States, she said, and has been since the workers and farmers of Cuba took power in 1959. What workers and farmers in Cuba have accomplished in the course of making the revolution is further proof that working people *are* capable of doing the same in the United States and around the world.

Irresolvable crisis of capitalism

In a talk on the “Changing Face of U.S. Politics,” Barnes described the unprecedented and irresolvable worldwide crisis of capitalist production, trade and finances. The imperialist world order is coming apart, from the Middle East and Afghanistan to Europe. And as capitalist competition and conflicts grow, the illusion of a “European Union” on the road to becoming a superpower is being torn apart.

The capitalist rulers and their parties and candidates have no solution. These are among the factors fueling the deepest crisis in bourgeois politics in our lifetimes, reflected in the turmoil of the 2016 elections. It’s why the party finds such receptivity among workers to discussing a road toward ending this dictatorship of capital and reorganizing society to meet human needs, not profits.

A half-dozen classes expanded on various themes of the conference — from the SWP’s experience and continuity in the trade unions, to the party’s longstanding call for unilateral U.S. nuclear disarmament.

The class titled “Puerto Rico is a U.S. Colony: SWP’s Communist Continuity

in the Fight for Independence” was “a real education for me,” Chris Steffen, a worker from Lincoln, Nebraska, told the *Militant*. “It’s such a long history of exploitation that just gets covered over in the press.”

Several displays helped bring the discussions to life. Panels highlighted the experiences in the weeks leading up to the conference campaigning for the party in working-class neighborhoods. They included graphics illustrating the character of the crisis, such as the drop in the portion of the working class that is employed in the U.S., and the anti-working-class character of the hysteria over Donald Trump’s campaign. Other photos pointed to the party’s rich experience participating in labor and political struggles, from the 1930s to today, and to activity in defense of the Cuban Revolution and opposing U.S. imperialism’s attacks on Venezuela.

Other panels focused on the shifting relations within and among states in the Middle East and the growing place of Iran in the region. A feature of the display was a description of the work by Tehran-based publisher Talaye Porsoo, which publishes translations in Farsi of some 45 books from Pathfinder Press. Farsi is spoken or read in Iran, and by half the population in Afghanistan and many others in the region. SWP leader Steve Clark gave a presentation to the conference on these questions.

Yasemin Aydinoglu, who works as a nurse in New York, was impressed by the scope of this publishing effort in Iran, which has helped these books get distributed throughout the region. The conference presentations “helped me understand better how what’s happening in the Mideast is connected to what’s happening in Turkey, where I’m from,” she said, such as the Turkish government’s repression against the Kurds.

The work of supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues, who volunteer for the Print Project to produce the books published by Pathfinder, was the theme of another display.

Along with the full range of Pathfinder titles, used and discount books gave those new to the communist move-

ment an opportunity to build their libraries.

“I really liked the \$1 books — I got 27 of them!” said Pierre Luc Sillion, a young worker from Montreal. “And I learned a lot from talking to all kinds of people with years of experience” in working-class politics. These discussions convinced him to join campaigning teams following the conference.

Campaigning for the party

The final conference session laid out perspectives for the coming months. The Socialist Workers Party’s candidates for U.S. president and vice president, Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart, were among the speakers. The activity they and others described is not an electoral campaign, but to build a party that can educate and organize the working class to take political power. A collection raised \$30,000 for the campaign.

Rose Engstrom was one of many participants who joined campaigning teams right after the conference. “Huntington, Utah, which has been devastated by coal mines closing, was eye-opening,” she said in a July 10 phone interview from Minneapolis, where she’d just been at a protest against the police killing of Philando Castile. “I live in a predominantly Black community here,” said Engstrom, who is Caucasian, “and many see poverty and unemployment as a problem of racism. Utah made it even clearer to me it’s a working-class question.”

The conference was followed by a meeting of volunteers in the Print Project to discuss their work, and a meeting of the Socialist Workers Party’s National Committee to organize implementation of the conference perspectives.

“It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System”

The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class

Framed up by the U.S. government, the Cuban Five spent up to 16 years within the U.S. working class behind bars. In this 2015 interview they talk about U.S. capitalist society and its “justice” system, and about the future of the Cuban Revolution. \$15. Also in Spanish, Farsi



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Militant photos: Above, Arthur Hughes; right, Tony Lane

Displays, above, highlighted talking to workers door to door, shifting relations in Middle East and spread of revolutionary literature in Iran, Afghanistan and region. Right, July 7 protest in St. Paul, Minnesota, against cop killing of Philando Castile.



Spotlight on cop brutality

Continued from front page
served food to the hundreds who attended.

“Anyone of us could be Philando, and I don’t want my son to have died in vain,” his mother Valerie Castile said at the picnic.

Castile’s family set up a booth at the annual Rondo Days parade and festival July 16. Rondo is a predominantly Black neighborhood in St. Paul. A contingent that marched with a banner reading “We demand justice for Jamar Clark, Philando Castile and all those hurt by police violence” was met by onlookers with chants of, “No justice, no peace, prosecute the police.”

At the July 15 service for Sterling, Rev. Al Sharpton said that few cops are prosecuted but they “should go to jail like anybody else that commits a crime.”

Some of the biggest applause in Baton Rouge was for Abdullah Muflahi, whose video of the police killing Sterling helped expose the truth.

The relatives of Castile and Sterling, as well as other leaders of the fight against police brutality around the country, have condemned the killing of police in Dallas July 7 and Baton Rouge 10 days later.

According to Dallas police, Micah Xavier Johnson, who killed five police and wounded others as a peaceful march against police brutality was taking place, said he wanted to kill white people, especially white cops. A police SWAT team killed Johnson with a bomb.

That these racist assassinations have nothing to do with opposing police brutality is obvious. The explosion of protests two years ago after the cop killings of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in Staten Island, New York, have been marked by the participation of demonstrators of all skin colors, including large numbers of workers and youth who are Caucasian.

Gavin Long was killed by police sharpshooters in Baton Rouge July 17, after he fatally shot three police officers and wounded three others.

In a video he filmed in Dallas July 10, Long said that protests against police brutality are useless. “It’s only fighting back and money, that’s all they care about,” he said, referring to police and government officials. “One hundred

percent of revolutions have been successful through fighting back, through bloodshed.”

Trump as ‘law and order’ candidate

Donald Trump has taken advantage of the anti-working-class actions of Long and Johnson, as well as the July 14 terror attack that killed 84 people in Nice, France, to present himself as the candidate of “law and order.” He made “Make America Safe Again” the theme of the opening night of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

Hillary Clinton also made sure her support for the cops was highlighted in a July 18 speech to the NAACP. “As president I will bring the full weight of the law to bear in making sure those who kill police officers are brought to justice,” she said.

President Barack Obama spoke at the July 12 funeral of the Dallas cops, and issued an open letter July 18, “To the brave members of our nation’s law enforcement community,” declaring, “We have your backs.”

“The killing of cops undermines the fight against police brutality,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, told the *Militant* July 20, while campaigning among working people in Baton Rouge. “The problem is not this or that individual cop. Under capitalism their role is to protect and serve the wealthy owning class.

“Fighting police brutality is a working-class issue,” he said. “To eliminate police brutality we need to get rid of capitalism. We have to keep protesting, getting more workers and more unions involved, and keep on demanding that the cops be prosecuted.”

A July 11 article in the *Washington Post* notes that 1,502 people have been

Actions condemn Fresno police killing of Dylan Noble

BY ERIC SIMPSON

FRESNO, Calif. — Several protests have condemned the killing of Dylan Noble, a 19-year-old roofer, after a traffic stop by police here June 25.

“Nothing is going to bring my son back. But I want those cops to pay. I want them to go to jail for murder,” Darren Noble, a 49-year-old truck driver,

“We’ve always had to fight for everything we got,” said George Massey, 63, who worked underground in Harlan County for 24 years before leaving due to leg injuries.

In 1946, following a nationwide strike of 400,000 coal miners, the UMWA wrested from the federal government the promise of lifetime health care for its membership. Through a levy on coal production, a health and welfare fund for miners was set up and administered by the union and the government. The legislation pending in Congress today would safeguard benefits for retirees from bankrupt companies.

Miners’ health care was one of the main issues in the 111-day nationwide strike in 1977-78. An 11-month strike by 1,900 miners at Pittston Coal in 1989 fought off that company’s attempts to deny medical benefits to its retired union members.

UK rallies protest cop brutality in Britain and US



Militant/Hugo Wils

LIVERPOOL, England — Around 800 people rallied here July 16 in solidarity with protests in the U.S. after the fatal police shootings there of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. Among them were friends and relatives of Mzee Mohammed, who died in police custody three days earlier. Above, Karla Mohammed, Mzee’s mother, addresses the rally. “Lots of you have seen the video which shows police laughing when they detained my son,” she said, “but my son will not be a number or statistic, we will get justice.”

More than 1,000 joined a similar protest in Manchester July 11, marching from Moss Side, a working-class neighborhood with a large proportion of people of Caribbean descent, to the town hall. Among the speakers was Carole Duggan, aunt of Mark Duggan, who was shot to death by police in London in 2011.

— HUGO WILS

shot and killed by cops in the U.S. from Jan. 1, 2015, until July 10 this year, including 732 Caucasians, 381 Blacks and 382 others, mostly Latinos.

While the largest number of those killed by police are Caucasian, African-Americans account for 24 percent of the total, but are only 13 percent of the population. It’s because Blacks are an oppressed nationality that they are two and a half times more likely than Caucasians to be shot and killed by cops.

Blacks are in the vanguard of the fight, and the slogan of Black Lives Matter has inspired working people of all nationalities to stand up to police abuse. In Council, Idaho, supporters of Jack Yantis, shot and killed by sheriff deputies in November, have marched with signs saying, “Ranchers Lives Matter.”

Kevin Dwire and Tony Lane in St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this article.

Miners call rally to prevent cuts

Continued from front page
ment Affairs and Communications, told the *Militant* July 18. “Others will fly in from Utah and Colorado” for the 11 a.m. event at the U.S. Capitol.

Coal companies have increasingly used bankruptcy courts to get out of contract commitments to the UMWA Health and Retirement Funds. As a result, “23,000 retired miners will lose their health care if Congress does not act and 90,000 will lose their pensions,” Smith said. “Today there are 13 UMWA retirees for every working miner.”

About 3,500 active and retired UMWA members rallied in Lexington, Kentucky, June 14 calling for passage of the Miners Protection Act. “We’re not asking for welfare,” Michael Partin, a retired union member who worked underground for 30 years, told the *Lexington Herald-Leader* at the rally. “We’ve earned these benefits.”

told the *Guardian* newspaper July 7, following the release of a cellphone video of the incident taken by a bystander.

“I’m outraged the police would shoot my son and say it was his fault,” said Veronica Nelson, Dylan Noble’s mother, at a news conference the same day.

From the beginning, the police characterized Noble’s death as “suicide by cop,” and say they thought he was armed when they pulled him over for speeding. In response to community pressure, the Fresno police department released body camera videos July 13, which show the unarmed youth being shot four times. The last two were fired as he lay on the pavement, barely moving.

Friends set up a memorial at the gas station where he was killed and for days gathered at the shrine there, covering the curb and pavement with messages and trying to wash out the blood stains from the pavement. A July 3 “vehicle cruise” drew 300 to demand “Justice for Dylan” and raise money for the family.

At a memorial vigil the day after his death, a sign was displayed that said “White Lives Matter,” and someone waved a Confederate battle flag, bringing charges of racism. Noble was Caucasian. “There’s people making it about race, and the one thing I knew about Dylan is that he wasn’t racist at all,” Megan Sullivan, a former classmate of Noble, told the *Fresno Bee* July 10.

Justice Medina, 19, and like Noble a



Dylan Noble

resident of the suburb Clovis, called a rally July 9 that drew 500 people. They marched for six hours, ending up outside the Clovis police station.

“There’s been too many lives lost,” Medina told KVPR radio. “Dylan Noble really struck a nerve in me,” Medina said, “I am Hispanic and Black. I don’t see race, I don’t see color. That’s something that’s created by the institutions to keep us separated.”

After escorting the march for the entire route and busing participants back to the starting point, police got a warrant for Medina’s arrest and charged him with violating a city ordinance against blocking traffic.

“I saw the video, and you saw it,” Johnny Ramirez told the *Militant* at a small street corner protest for Black Lives Matter July 16. “There was no need for them to keep shooting him. Fresno PD has a history of that.”

Organize! Unionize! No deportations!

“We’re all Americans, we’re all in this together,” say the bosses, their news media and their politicians — from Donald Trump to Hillary Clinton — when they want us to accept concessions, supposedly to “save American jobs,” or to give up democratic rights to “fight terrorism,” or to go fight their wars.

But when workers stand up for higher wages and safer work conditions, when working people of different nationalities join protests against police brutality, or begin to chafe at government intrusion into our lives, all of a sudden the “we” disappears.

Instead, the bosses invent a “white working class” who they claim are mired in despair, addicted to Oxycontin and racist toward Blacks and Latinos. They pit men against women, Black against Caucasian, native-born against foreign-born, employed against unemployed, young against old.

There *are* two Americas: the America of the ruling capitalist families and the America of working people. But there is just *one working class* — with different skin colors and speaking a variety of languages.

As the world capitalist economic and social crisis intensifies, the bosses use every division they can to increase competition among workers and drive down our wages. The only way to counteract this is to organize the unorganized. It’s more important than ever today when less than 7 percent of private sector workers are organized in unions.

To increase these divisions — and keep us from seeing that capitalism is the source of our problems — they label our immigrant brothers and sisters as “illegal aliens.” In an editorial in the *Militant* two weeks ago, we called for “legalizing” undocumented immigrants — a term we have not used for several years, and will not use again.

In the eyes of the capitalist rulers all workers are outlaws. Isn’t that how the cops view African-American youth they stop and frisk? Isn’t that how they treat “felons” who are denied the right to vote? Isn’t that how the bosses view workers on strike who refuse to go back until they win a better contract?

The Socialist Workers Party will never ask to see your papers. Every union and organization of the working class should say: “We don’t care what language you speak, what side of the border you were born on or whether you did time in prison. We don’t care if you are Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu or no religion. Let’s join together and stand up to the bosses and their parties.”

This is a life-or-death question for the working class and the unions. Stop deportations and all other measures such as E-verify that are directed at immigrant workers and that divide the working class! Release our fellow workers who are in prison for not having immigration papers or work permits! Organize! Unionize!

Strengthen fight against cop brutality

One striking aspect of the recent protests against police brutality — including after the deaths of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile in Minnesota — has been their multinational character.

Black, Latino, Caucasian and Asian workers and youth, U.S.-born and foreign-born, keep coming together and saying, “Enough!” This shows the opportunities to keep broadening out the fight. When Eric Garner died in a police chokehold in Staten Island two years ago, SEIU Local 1199 and other unions played a prominent role in many of the protests. More union participation will strengthen the fight today.

While police brutality falls most heavily on those who are Black — precisely because African-Americans are an oppressed nationality — it is a working-class question.

That’s why the killing of the five cops in Dallas was so insidious. Micah Xavier Johnson said he was looking to kill whites, especially white cops. The victims of police brutality are Black, Caucasian, Latino, Asian and Native American. So are the cops who brutalize them. Killing someone on the basis of their skin color is racism. It’s a blow to the working class.

So was the attack on cops in Baton Rouge by Gavin Long. The main argument Long made in a video he recorded before the shootings is that demonstrations can’t stop police brutality, only a revolution can.

But killing cops — and the glorification of individual acts of violence as if that is the road to strength and courage — has nothing to do with making a revolution and just as little to do with ending police brutality. All it does is give the government an excuse to slander the fight, victimize participants and strengthen their repressive apparatus.

It is not a question of good cops versus bad cops. When cops mete out punishment, they are doing what they are trained and conditioned to do: to keep working people in our place, to make an example of us, even more so if you happen to be Black or Latino. Police brutality is an essential feature of capitalism. The job of the police is “to protect and to serve” the ruling rich.

As the class struggle heats up in the midst of the worsening capitalist economic crisis, we will see the cops used more openly to break strikes and attack workers on the picket lines.

To end police brutality, it is necessary to put an end to the dictatorship of capital. That can only be done by building a movement that takes the moral high ground. That holds individual cops who brutalize people responsible for their actions and demands that they be prosecuted according to the law.

Real politics begins when not just thousands, but millions, move into action. Actions that unite working people of all nationalities are a step in that direction.

Paris uses terror attack to undermine rights

Continued from front page

Tunisian origin, killed 84 people and injured more than 300 when he drove a 19-ton truck into tens of thousands of people who had turned out to celebrate Bastille Day. Bouhleh “was a soldier of Islamic State,” that reactionary group claimed two days later.

The state of emergency, which was supposed to have been lifted July 26, was instituted after Islamist terrorists killed 130 people in Paris Nov. 13. Under its sweeping powers police have conducted more than 3,500 house raids, arrested hundreds of people and set up security checks at entrances of stores, concert halls and train stations. More than 120,000 cops and security agents patrol the major cities.

Tens of thousands have protested against the emergency measures across the country. In June the government had to back off from banning a demonstration against an anti-labor bill after a public outcry.

Capitalist politicians use the terrorist attacks to call for bans and surveillance of Muslims. But Muslims have been the principal victims of these acts. As

Islamic State loses territory in Iraq and Syria, it has lashed out in a spree of assaults. In the last month, attacks in Turkey, Bangladesh, Iraq and Saudi Arabia killed over 300 people.

At least 30 Muslim funerals have been held for those killed in Nice, a spokesperson for a regional Islamic association told the *New York Times* July 19.

Hamza Charrihi, 28, who was at the celebration with his parents, told the French news agency *L’Express* that his mother was the first victim of Bouhleh’s rampage. “She wore a hijab, she practiced an Islam of the right balance,” he said. “But that is not the one practiced by the terrorists.”

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

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Crackdown in Turkey

Continued from front page

have never supported or endorsed democracy in Turkey,” said HDP Co-chair Selahattin Demirtas.

Coup leaders charged that under Erdogan Turkey “has become an autocracy based on fear” and declared a nationwide curfew. In the evening soldiers occupied some buildings in Istanbul, the largest city, and the capital Ankara. Jets bombed parliament and helicopters fired on street crowds and police stations. Police and civilians confronted the soldiers, most of whom surrendered by the morning. The government reported 232 killed, including 145 civilians and 60 cops.

A coal miner in the town of Soma told the *Militant* by phone that appeals over mosque loudspeakers urged residents to rally in the town square. While miners who support Erdogan turned out, he said, others were apprehensive that the government would react with repression. Another unionist told the *Militant* that some Erdogan supporters attacked neighborhoods populated by Alevis, a branch of Shiite Islam.

Erdogan immediately blamed the coup on supporters of Fethullah Gulen, his former ally. The Turkish government is demanding the extradition of Gulen, a Sunni Muslim cleric now living in the United States. Gulen denied any involvement in the coup.

Gen. Akin Ozturk, a former air force commander the government claims planned the coup, and 26 other generals and admirals were charged with treason July 18. Erdogan said coup supporters “will pay a heavy price,” possibly including restoring the death penalty.

Also arrested was the commander of Turkey’s Incirlik Air Base, which hosts NATO and U.S. troops, as well as the largest U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile in Europe. For 24 hours, Turkish officials closed the air space around the base and shut off the electricity. The base plays a central role in U.S. air operations in Iraq and Syria. Turkish officials said the commander provided refueling for fighter planes used in the coup.

Gulen’s movement in Turkey — with a network of schools and charities — says that it supports secular democracy and preaches toleration as part of Islam. After Gulen and Erdogan’s Sunni Islamist-based Justice and Development Party had a falling out in 2013, Erdogan began purging Gulen supporters in the military, police and other state institutions.

Erdogan announced July 17 he would now “clean all state institutions of the virus,” a threat aimed at anyone opposing his rule. By July 19, 50,000 had been fired, including 9,000 cops, 6,000 military personnel, 3,000 judges, 30 provincial governors and thousands of civil servants and teachers. Many have been detained.

Strong president

Erdogan came to power as prime minister in 2003 and was elected president in 2014, a previously ceremonial post he has transformed into a strong executive role. Especially in the last few years he has taken over control of news media that has criticized him and clamped down on democratic rights.

In July 2015, Erdogan cancelled a cease-fire with the Kurdistan Workers Party signed two years earlier and unleashed a military offensive against the oppressed Kurdish population throughout the southeast.

A central goal of Erdogan was his bid to join the European Union and other steps to assert Turkey as a Mideast power, projecting his government as a counterweight to Iran’s Shia Muslim rulers. He backed some groups fighting the Bashar al-Assad dictatorship, heavily based on the Shiite minority in Syria, and turned a blind eye to Sunni Islamist groups like Islamic State, crossing the border to Syria.

But the European imperialist powers were never going to let Turkey into the EU. Ankara found itself sidelined when Washington signed a nuclear accord with Iran in July 2015 as part of a deal to win Tehran’s help to stabilize the Middle East, especially in Syria and Iraq, and increased its collaboration with Moscow.

Seeking to break out of its isolation, the Erdogan government made a sharp about-face in foreign policy.

On June 27 Erdogan apologized to Moscow for shooting down a Russian plane over Turkey’s border with Syria last November. On June 30 Moscow lifted the economic sanctions it had imposed in retaliation.

The Turkish and Israeli governments announced June 27 they were restoring diplomatic ties. The two broke off relations in 2010 after Israeli commandos stormed a Turkish passenger ship that was trying to break Israel’s blockade of the Gaza Strip, killing nine.