

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Int'l. conf. highlights Cuba,
Puerto Rico, Dominican ties
— PAGES 6-7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 32 AUGUST 29, 2016

NY protests condemn assassination of Muslims

BY MAGGIE TROWE

OZONE PARK, N.Y. — Immediate protests took place here after the Aug. 13 shooting deaths of Maulama Akonjee, a Muslim imam, and his friend Thara Uddin. The killings are widely viewed as a cold-blooded assassination directed against Muslims.

Security camera footage shows a

**STOP ATTACKS ON
MUSLIMS, MOSQUES!**
— SWP statement, p. 9

gunman approached the two Bangladeshi-born men from behind after they left midday prayer services at the Al-Furqan Jame Masjid mosque, then shot them in the back of their heads. Police reported \$1,000 in cash Akonjee was carrying was not touched by the assailant.

As word spread of the killings, a crowd gathered at the site.

Members of the congregation came together outside the mosque the next

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Russian gov't ratchets up conflict with Kiev in Crimea

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Russian officials accused the Ukrainian government Aug. 10 of organizing armed incursions into Crimea — the Black Sea peninsula militarily occupied and annexed by Moscow in 2014 in a brazen violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. Moscow's Federal Security Service said one of its agents and a Russian soldier were killed fending off "saboteurs" in two separate incidents, and claims to have detained several members of Ukraine's special forces.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko called these allegations "preposterous." Relatives of truck driver Yevhen Panov, one of those arrested by Russian authorities, said he had been kidnapped and was not a member of the Ukrainian armed forces. These events take place amid a growing Russian military buildup in Crimea. At the same time, fighting between Kiev's forces and Russian-backed separatists who have seized sections of Ukraine's eastern Don-

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Socialist Workers Party: 'Defend voting rights!'



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Hair stylist Renee Perron, left, talks with Socialist Workers Party campaigner Ellen Brickley in Nashville. "I'm happy to hear we have an alternative," Perron said. SWP is campaigning across Tennessee, one of states where officials are putting up obstacles to workers voting.

'Glad to hear SWP will be on ballot in Utah'

BY BERNIE SENTER

SALT LAKE CITY — "Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart, the SWP candidates for president and vice president, are better than anything out there. I am glad to hear these workers will be on the ballot in Utah," said Brian Klinger in a message to the Socialist Workers Party campaign. Klinger said he learned "that there is a workers alternative in the 2016 elections" when campaign supporters knocked on his door in Ogden in July.

In a victory for working people in Utah, state officials Aug. 11 certified that the Socialist Workers Party slate of Kennedy and Hart met the requirement of 1,000 signatures of registered voters to get on the ballot.

Over six weeks campaigners for the SWP spoke to thousands of workers, farmers and ranchers on their door-

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Campaigning for working- class voice in Tennessee

BY JOHN STUDER

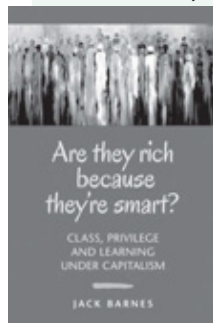
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — "People are waking up to the reality that the two-party system in the U.S. is really a one-party system," Samuel Smiley told Lisa Potash when she knocked on his door here to introduce the Socialist Workers Party, the working-class party taking on the capitalist bosses' Democrats and Republicans.

"We need our own party to mobilize workers to fight against the brutalizing effects on our class of the deepening crisis of the capitalist system, to organize solidarity with all those who fight back, and to forge a mass movement strong enough to overturn the bosses' rule," Potash said. "That's

Continued on page 3

**SWP candidate: Join Mine
Workers protest Sept. 8**
— See statement p. 9

**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 workers will begin to transform ourselves and our attitudes toward life, work and each other. Only then will we learn what we're capable of becoming."

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See page 8 to contact the Socialist
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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Locked-out Honeywell workers
in Indiana win support

Los Angeles port truckers gain
in fight for right to unionize

'Charge cop who killed Sylville Smith in Milwaukee'



Reuters/Aaron Bernstein

Protests broke out in Milwaukee after police shot and killed 23-year-old Sylville Smith Aug. 13. Angry demonstrators clashed with police in riot gear that night and the following one. Six businesses and some cars were set on fire. Gov. Scott Walker declared a state of emergency Aug. 14 and activated the National Guard. The next day city police imposed a 10 p.m. curfew for youth under 18.

At an Aug. 14 vigil, Smith's sister Kimberly Neal, above, called on prosecutors to file charges against the cop.

Regardless of the circumstances, which are still not clear, the reaction to the killing of Smith shows many working people say, "Enough is enough," in face of the many police killings and abuses, such as those detailed in the Justice Department report on Baltimore (see article on page 9).

"Enough is enough," said Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy. "We call for the removal of the National Guard, ending the curfew and that the police responsible be charged."

— MAGGIE TROWE

Rallies in Australia protest jail abuse of Aboriginal youth

BY RON POULSEN
AND LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — Footage of routine brutalization of Aboriginal youth in Darwin’s Don Dale juvenile prison was shown here for the first time to a nationwide audience July 25 on an ABC program titled “Australia’s Shame.” The next day, hundreds protested in Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory, and in Alice Springs, demanding the sacking of the NT government. On July 30, protest rallies in major cities around the country drew thousands more.

The Four Corners program shows a 14-year-old boy hooded and shackled in a chair, evoking the images of torture at the U.S. Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. This drew headlines around the world.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, re-elected in the July 2 federal elections, moved to try to deflect anger at the filmed brutality by hastily announcing a special judicial investigation by a royal commission. A week later, under pressure to investigate the Northern Territory government itself and to allow indigenous representation, he announced an Aboriginal government adviser on social justice, Mick Gooda, would be a replacement commissioner.

Dylan Voller was the teenage boy in the film, who had been subjected to years of mistreatment. His sister, Kirra Voller, said the government knew about the abuse of her brother and didn’t do anything, saying the inquiry was “the government’s way of shifting blame.”

This was not an isolated or new incident, nor is it confined to the Northern Territory. Nationally, indigenous youth

are 26 times more likely to be imprisoned than others. They make up over half of all children in juvenile detention.

The Northern Territory is third in the world, after the United States and China, in incarcerating people. Under mandatory sentencing laws, many youths are repeatedly locked up over minor offenses. Aboriginal children make up about 90 percent of juveniles in prison. Thirty percent of the 250,000 people who live in the Northern Territory are Aboriginal, whereas only 3 percent of the total Australian population is indigenous.

The program, based on tapes from the prison, reveal authorities’ cruelty on boys as young as 10 years old. In 2014 after six boys held in solitary at Don Dale were tear gassed, an investigation was launched and the prison closed. No one was held responsible and children were just relocated to an adult prison.

John Lawrence, a former lawyer with the North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, said on the program the abuse is “a deliberate punitive cruel policy” on the part of government and prison authorities.

One protester at the July 26 Alice Springs rally sat strapped in a chair, head covered in a hood, with a placard in front reading, “If I did this to my children, they’d be taken off me!” Government “child protection” agencies, past and present, are notorious for removing youngsters from Aboriginal families.

In the 1980s, a rising protest movement against a string of cop killings of young Black men forced the government to call a Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. But as



Reuters/Jason Reed

Protest in Sydney July 30 as part of nationwide rallies against prison abuse of Aboriginal youth.

the court process ground on and on, the street protests receded.

Twenty-five years ago, that commission made 339 recommendations, most of which were never implemented. Since then, the number of Aborigines in prison or police custody has doubled.

“A lot of people in the Aboriginal community are saying methods of incarceration haven’t changed much in 228 years,” Tim Gray, an Aboriginal ac-

tivist in Sydney, told the *Militant*.

The first British fleet landed in Australia in 1788, founding a convict prison settlement there. British colonial rule and capitalist production expanded across the continent, dispossessing the indigenous people of their traditional lands. The Northern Territory was the final arena of this frontier war, with the last massacre of over 100 Aboriginal tribespeople at Coniston in 1928.

Actions denounce attacks on Muslim women in Chicago

BY DAN FEIN

CHICAGO — Forty people rallied here Aug. 14 to protest an assault on two Muslim women in Rogers Park three days earlier. Video footage shows the attacker yelling obscenities, kicking the women’s car and smashing a side view mirror while they sit locked inside.

Suzanne Damra told the protesters she and her mother were targeted “because we are Muslim and wearing hijabs.” The woman who attacked them “called us ISIS.”

Imam Malik Mujahid also spoke, connecting the attack to the Aug. 13 killing of an imam and his assistant in New York.

This protest followed an Aug. 11 news conference at the offices of Council on American-Islamic Relations where

Itemid Al-Matar announced her suit against the Chicago Police Department for excessive force, false arrest, violation of freedom of religious expression and malicious prosecution.

A Chicago Transit Authority video shows that Al-Matar, who is from Saudi Arabia, was approached by five cops while walking to the subway on July 4, 2015. They threw her to the ground, handcuffed her and ripped off her headscarf and veil. Al-Matar was strip-searched at the police station and charged with obstructing justice and reckless conduct. She was found not guilty in June.

The cops’ report says they thought Al-Matar showed “suspicious behavior” because she was walking at “a brisk pace, in a determined manner.”

THE MILITANT

Defend women’s right to choose abortion!

The fight to defend women’s right to choose abortion is important for the working class and labor movement. The ‘Militant’ covers fights across the world against restrictions on access to abortion and physical harassment by anti-abortion forces.

Militant/Baskaran Appu

Aug. 5 picket in Thames, New Zealand, countering anti-abortion protest.

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The Militant

Vol. 80/No. 32

Closing news date: August 17, 2016

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Naomi Craine

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in August and one week in September.

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

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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SWP candidate Hart meets Calif. farmers, farmworkers

BY BETSEY STONE
AND ERIC SIMPSON

FRESNO, Calif.—“I’ve learned a lot from farmers and farmworkers here about the challenges they face,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president, told the *Militant*.

Hart visited the 40-acre farm of Will Scott, president of the African American Farmers of California, Aug. 15.

“The small farmer is being hit hardest by the years-long drought in California,” Scott told Hart as they walked through the dusty field where Scott will soon plant okra and black-eyed peas. “Wealthy farmers can afford to drill deeper for water,” he said. “The small farmer can’t.”

Hundreds of Laotian-born Hmong farmers are among those struggling to stay on the land. Most of them farm rented land using shallower wells. They have been the first driven out of their livelihood as wells dry up.

Far from helping the small farmer, Scott said, state regulations often make things worse. Laws limiting plowing to certain times in the name of holding down the dust are burdensome on a small farm, he said. Another onerous regulation forces farmers to pay for testing water for impurities and for cleaning up the water if the tests require it. “Everything is put on you,” he said, “even if you didn’t cause the problem.”

Hart pointed to the example of Cuba, where workers and farmers made a revolution. “Farmers’ organizations help decide government policy there,” Hart said. Farmers can get loans they need, and they can’t lose their land. “It brings home the need for workers and farmers to organize a revolutionary party to take power away from the capitalists here.”

Describing what Black farmers face despite winning a long-fought lawsuit, Scott said, “They give you enough credit to hang yourself.”

Campaigning door to door Aug. 14 Hart and supporters met Alicia Martinez, a farmworker for 17 years, who told Hart she and her co-workers hope to get a union at their workplace to improve conditions and pay.

Her neighbor, Pablo, described difficulties getting the company to pay for

medical care when he was injured working in the fields.

“We need to fight for full medical coverage for all workers,” Hart said, “and extend solidarity to all those fighting for a union and a contract.”

At a local diner Hart met with Roger Centeno and Johnny Ramirez, both active in the fight against cop brutality. Police killed Centeno’s unarmed brother Freddy last year. A Sept. 3 vigil will mark the one-year anniversary of his death and press the fight to hold the cops accountable.

Gerardo Sánchez contributed to this article.



Militant/Betsy Stone

“The small farmer is hit hardest by the drought,” Will Scott, left, told SWP vice presidential candidate Osborne Hart, center, and Joel Britton on his farm near Fresno, California, Aug. 15.

SWP campaign in Tennessee: Defend voting rights

Continued from front page

why we’re campaigning in Tennessee and all across the country and why we’re working to put the Socialist Workers Party’s presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart on the ballot here.

“Our class has the power and potential to change history,” Potash said. “Look at the victory over Jim Crow segregation won by the mighty working-class fight for Black rights and the sit-down strikes and labor battles that led to the building of the industrial unions.”

Smiley, a 23-year-old musician who is African-American, had joined the discussion Potash began with his two roommates, who are also seeking to break into the music business in Nashville, the home of the Grand Old Opry.

The three were among 27 workers who got a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, 18 who got subscriptions to the *Militant* and 353 who signed to put Kennedy and Hart on the

Tennessee ballot over the last four days.

On Aug. 8 the party filed 569 signatures, more than twice the required number. But state officials told Daniel Horwitz, the party’s attorney, that only 32 percent were valid and the SWP needed 95 more “good” signatures.

So party supporters from Atlanta, New York, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and elsewhere joined people in Tennessee to do just that and more, to campaign, win more support and build the party here.

Tennessee is one of a number states, especially in the South, where governments have campaigned to limit voting rights for working people, disproportionately affecting those who are Black. A 2011 law requires anyone who wants to register or vote to have one of a handful of “acceptable” government-issued photo IDs.

In addition, the ballot is only available in English and, while you are permitted to have an interpreter, you are legally forbidden to get one from

your trade union.

Over the past few months, legal challenges have overturned or weakened such restrictions in North Carolina, Texas and other states. Similar challenges were unsuccessful in Tennessee in both 2013 and 2015.

For the same reasons, SWP lawyer Horwitz said, the government here conducts aggressive purges of the voter registrations rolls, denying thousands the right to vote. That is a major reason why so many workers’ signatures weren’t counted on SWP petitions.

The fight for the right to vote has a long history — to end property requirements after the Revolutionary War; to extend the franchise to Blacks after the Civil War and again as part of the fight against Jim Crow; to win women’s suffrage and the vote for 18-year-olds.

“We find widespread disgust with the capitalist candidates among workers here and real interest in the SWP,” said John Benson, party organizer in Atlanta and director of campaigning here.

“We’ve campaigned among auto workers who would like to have a union at Nissan and other plants, rubber workers at Bridgestone/Firestone and workers in smaller towns devastated by shutdown coal mines and factories,” he said.

“We find solidarity with Anna Yocca, a 31-year-old woman from Murfreesboro who was indicted on attempted murder charges for attempting a self-induced abortion,” Benson said. “The anti-abortion laws are harsh here. Sixty-three percent of women in the state live in counties without a doctor that provides abortion services. The charges against Yocca were lowered to aggravated assault in March, but she is still in county jail because she couldn’t meet the outrageous \$200,000 bail.”

The party will file the additional signatures by the Aug. 18 deadline.

Fla. workers discuss reality in US, Cuba

BY ANTHONY DUTROW

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — When Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy campaigned in South Florida, construction worker David Castro invited her and Cindy Jaquith, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, to visit him Aug. 6 at the trailer park where he lives. When they arrived Castro was grilling at the park’s annual barbecue.

When members of the SWP knocked on Castro’s door last spring he subscribed to the *Militant* and later renewed the subscription, bought a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, and convinced a neighbor to subscribe.

Castro’s neighbor Carlos Delgado, a Ft. Lauderdale airport food-service worker, told Kennedy he was having a tough time getting by on \$8.35 an hour. He arrived with his wife and children from Cuba 10 months ago.

Kennedy, who once worked a similar job at the Chicago airport, agreed workers need higher pay and unions.

“We have a union,” Delgado said, “but the officials don’t do anything to improve conditions. In Cuba, unions help the workers.”

“I visited Cuba for the May Day celebrations as part of a delegation of moth-

ers and relatives of youth killed by the police in the U.S.,” Kennedy told him. Delgado nodded his head, saying, “In Cuba there is little violence of any kind, and the police there don’t kill people.”

Kennedy asked Castro about his take on the elections. “It’s like we’re on a plane, but in different seats,” he replied. “The rich sit in the first-class seats, the curtain is closed, they turn their backs on us and never look at the conditions we are going through. No one is dealing with our problems.”

Castro has been reading and promoting *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* and took *Militant* subscription cards for several neighbors interested in the Socialist Workers Party.

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Candidate for U.S. President**

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Also speaking: Ron Poulsen, Communist League. Fri., Aug. 26, 6 p.m. Reception followed by program. Donation: \$4/\$2 (unwaged). *Upstairs, 281-287 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718-9698.*

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Bosses’ profit drive caused 1984 Utah mine disaster

Below are excerpts from the Jan. 11, 1985, Militant reporting on the Wilberg mine disaster. The authors were both coal miners who participated in the union rescue and relief effort. Cecelia Moriarity worked at the mine and was a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2176 and of the Lady Coal Miners of Utah. She was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Utah in 1984.

**BY JOE GEISER
AND CECELIA MORIARITY**

PRICE, Utah — Nineteen members of UMWA Local 2176, and eight company executives and foremen, were killed by a fire that started Dec. 19, 1984, at the Wilberg mine outside Orangeville, Utah. The mine is located in the main coal-producing region in the southeastern part of the state.

The bodies of the 26 men and one woman remain inside the mine despite attempts to rescue them. On Dec. 23 rescue teams were evacuated from the mine on the order of federal mine inspectors as explosive gases reached a dangerous level. On Dec. 29 the mine portals were sealed in an effort to bring under control the fire that has raged since Dec. 19.

The dead miners were all working in a section of the mine where a longwall, the most modern and mechanized machine for producing coal, was in use. The company was attempting to achieve a 24-hour world production record at the time of the fire.

UMWA members, widows, and other community residents here are in general agreement with UMWA International Pres. Richard Trumka, who said, “When a coal operator becomes so concerned with setting short-term coal-production records, safety is made an afterthought and miners are needlessly killed.”

Few miners or other community residents here believe the company’s story that the fire was an unpredictable “accident.” They blame Emery Mining Corp. for recklessly endangering lives and disregarding safety in its drive to boost coal production and profits.

Emery Mining has tried to cover up its responsibility for the disaster, claiming the fire probably started as a result of a mechanical failure.

However, at a press conference Dec.

28 at UMWA Local 2176 headquarters, UMWA members Alex Tidwell and Clinton Price said the fire broke out near an electrical cable in the fresh-air tunnel leading to the longwall section.

In the Wilberg mine, the power system is equipped with safety circuits that should shut off power if cables are overloaded, damaged or catch fire. But once the fire started, and the cable exploded, the power stayed on, the two unionists reported. They said the company “may have jumped the cable, a common practice.”

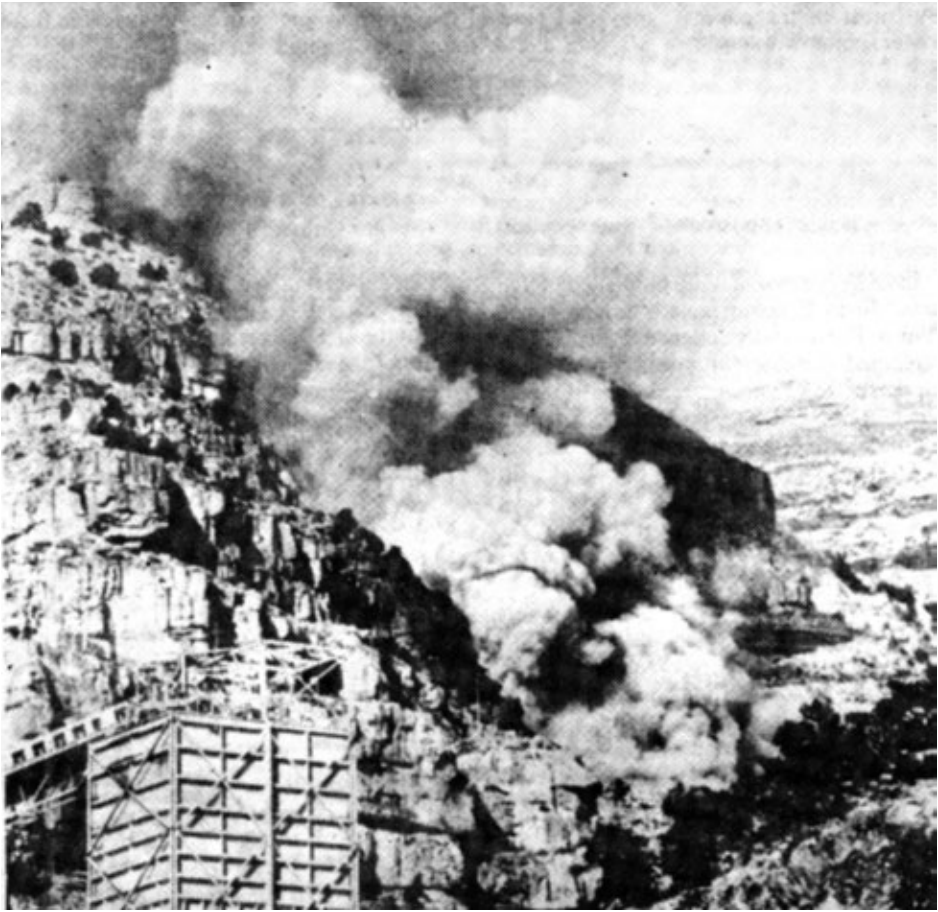
The two men said the phone nearest the fire was not working so they were unable to immediately call for help. As the fire spread to the conveyor belt motor, an automatic foam system that should have been activated to put out the fire failed to work. “It just bubbled,” they said.

Earlier last fall, Mine Safety and Health Administration inspectors had found caved-in coal and rock blocking an escape route. Instead of ordering Emery to clean up the cave-in, MSHA issued the company a variance, which is a permit to keep operating despite a safety violation. The union cannot appeal a variance.

Because the cave-in was never removed, there were only two — instead of the normal three — exits available to miners in the area. The fire broke out on one escape route and quickly burned through to a second exit, blocking both. The third escapeway was blocked by the cave-in. The miners on the longwall were thus trapped.

Such safety violations are only part of the assault on miners’ health and safety that has been carried out by the company in recent years. The Wilberg mine has had one of the highest accident rates in the country. Safety jobs have been eliminated through layoffs, and a speed-up “bonus” plan has been introduced that further endangers the workers.

In spite of all the obstacles created by the company, miners did everything they could to try to save their trapped co-workers, beginning the day the fire started. UMWA members on the shift when the fire broke out, as well as those



Sun Advocate/Larry Beckner

Fire at Wilberg mine in 1984 killed 27 people, as bosses drove to set production record.

who arrived soon after for the midnight shift, volunteered to carry out whatever tasks were necessary to aid the specially trained rescue teams that were brought in. Many miners worked long stretches, sleeping at the mine or returning after short breaks.

Miners’ morale remained high, until everyone learned that the rescue teams had located 25 bodies and that no hope remained for the other two.

Community solidarity

People in the coal mining communities of Carbon and Emery rallied to meet the needs of the fire-fighting and rescue teams. Local community organizations were flooded with offers of help.

While solidarity like this was pouring in from workers around the world, Emery Mining showed nothing but callous disregard for the victims and their families.

It was the UMWA and its supporters that took over the relief efforts for the families. UMWA Local 2176 set up an information center in Orangeville with the help of the UMWA district and volunteers. The Lady Coal Miners of Utah joined the efforts.

On Dec. 26, a memorial service for

the 27 people killed in the fire was held in Castle Dale, Utah, sponsored by the Mormon church. It was attended by almost 2,000 people, including miners and bosses. Miners were urged by those on the platform to put the Wilberg disaster behind them. One of the featured speakers was Gordon Hinckley, a high official of the Mormon church who also sits on the board of Emery’s parent company, Utah Power & Light. Hinckley called the mine fire an accident, comparing it to hurricanes, volcano eruptions and earthquakes.

After the service was over, one miner said, “This was no accident. This was manmade.”

United Mine Workers Rally at the U.S. Capitol

National rally called by the UMWA to protest attack on health care and pensions for 22,000 retired union members, spouses and dependents.

**Thurs., Sept. 8, 11 a.m.
Washington, D.C.**

For more info visit: www.umwa.org

‘No miner has to die!’

Among the workers who sent messages congratulating the Socialist Workers Party’s campaigning effort in Utah was former miner Cecelia Moriarity. The SWP candidates discuss how “working people can achieve safe conditions on the job,” she wrote. “As a coal miner in Utah at the former Wilberg Mine, the company’s disregard for safety killed 19 co-workers and eight company bosses in 1984. [See article above.]

“I am very proud of the Socialist Workers Party slogan, ‘No miner has to die.’ Because it’s true. Being on the ballot in Utah will give miners and all working people there the opportunity to learn there is a party that explains the cause of the social and economic crisis and raises the way forward for us out of the dangers we face.”

Continued from front page

steps across the state, from the coalfields to cattle ranching communities. They discussed why, in face of the irresolvable economic and social crisis of capitalism worldwide, the Socialist Workers Party is the party workers need, the class opposite of the capitalist contenders. This effort was redoubled after the state said 1,700 signatures of workers who wanted the party on the ballot wasn’t sufficient, and another 300 signed petitions.

In the course of this campaigning, 220 people bought copies of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, and 200 subscribed to the *Militant*.

SWP campaigners also joined actions against police brutality, including an Aug. 9 rally protesting the Salt Lake City prosecutor’s decision not to indict two cops for shooting 17-year-old Abdullahi Mohamed. Instead they charged Mohamed with robbery and

drug possession.

Campaigning Aug. 10, Kennedy and Sergio Zambrana met Melissa Fralley, 25, a Navy veteran who is disabled and unemployed. When Kennedy told Fralley the Socialist Workers Party opposes U.S. wars, calls for bringing all troops home and opposes scapegoating of Muslim people, she agreed.

“The U.S. military budget is larger than the next seven countries combined,” Fralley said. “I feel that the wars create more enemies abroad and also create anti-Muslim sentiment.”

“At the same time, there’s an assault against workers in this country and high unemployment,” Kennedy said.

“Yes, and when your unemployment benefits run out, you’re not even officially unemployed any more!” Fralley said.

The SWP calls for a massive government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union scale wages, Kennedy told her.

Besides Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, five other capitalist candidates

are on the Utah ballot, including Libertarian Gary Johnson, who is polling 16 percent in the state, and the recently announced Republican candidate Evan McMullin, a former CIA operative. Both have their national headquarters in Salt Lake City.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign has received substantial coverage in the state’s major newspapers, TV and radio stations. Kennedy was interviewed on KSL radio Aug. 10, and the *Deseret News* ran an article the same day titled, “Socialist Workers Party Presidential Candidate Wants to Start Revolution.” Both are Mormon church affiliates.

Both KSL host Doug Wright and the *Deseret News* highlighted the fact that Kennedy is a former coal miner who was a leader of the 2003-2004 strike and union-organizing drive at the Co-Op Mine in Huntington, one of Utah’s most important recent labor battles.

Mary Martin contributed to this article.

—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 and construction workers demanding safe conditions. 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

Locked-out Honeywell workers in Indiana win support

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — “Your fight is an example for all workers,” said Rosa Maria Rodriguez, financial secretary of United Steelworkers Local 1010, as she presented a check for \$2,290 to United Auto Workers Local 9 here Aug. 5. Two carloads of Steelworkers and family members made the trip from East Chicago to the union hall and joined the picket line with the aerospace workers, who have been locked out by Honeywell since May 9 after voting down the company's “last, best and final offer.”

Local 9 Financial Secretary Rob Wil-

liams said the union has also received contributions from UAW Local 5 and the UAW International, as well as food donations from teachers and other local workers. “And we won a victory — after 10 weeks the state of Indiana finally agreed to release our unemployment checks,” he said.

“If we go back for what they want we won't really have a union,” Robin Harper told the Steelworkers who joined their picket line. The company is demanding drastic increases in health care costs, the right to ignore job classifications and tear up work schedules.

“They wanted to divide us, but they've brought us more together,” said Javier Martinez, who started work at the plant six months before the lockout.

“You can call on us to help in any way we can,” said Rodriguez.

— Betsy Farley, member of
USW Local 1010

Los Angeles port truckers gain in fight for right to unionize

LOS ANGELES — Drivers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have made gains in their fight against trucking bosses, who call them independent contractors in order to deny them the right to form a union. They are also denied benefits and overtime pay, and charged for expenses on trucks they lease from the company. Many make less than the minimum wage.

Drivers have struck different trucking companies 13 times over the last three years. They have also filed lawsuits for wage theft, pressuring the National Labor Relations Board to demand XPO Cartage and Laca Express reimburse them for truck payments made while they were misclassified.

Some 400 drivers also won a \$5



Transport Workers Union Local 556

Flight attendants, mechanics and pilots picketed Southwest Airlines in Atlanta and at nine other airports Aug. 8, demanding negotiations. Workers' contracts expired several years ago.

million judgment in a class action suit against QTS Inc., LACA Express and WinWin Logistics.

Barb Maynard, a spokesperson for Justice for Port Drivers, the group organizing drivers for the Teamsters, estimates that in recent years 700 individual truck driver cases have been filed with the state Labor Commissioner, including 24 class-action and dozens of individual lawsuits. “We are pleased” with the recent victory, Maynard said, “but the issue of misclassification has not been settled.”

Pac 9 Transportation, one of the companies repeatedly struck by drivers, filed for bankruptcy to escape paying more than \$7 million in penalties.

“Some companies drag their feet on wage theft,” Daniel Linares, a former Pac 9 driver who is owed \$180,000 in the settlement, told the *Militant*. “Others, to avoid those situations, are changing, giving drivers hourly pay and benefits, but some still don't pay for overtime.”

— Bill Arth

Southwest Airlines workers picket for contract in 10 cities

ATLANTA — “Thirty-eight months is much too long” and “Without us it's just a machine” were some of the chants on the picket line at the Southwest Airlines terminal here Aug. 8.

“There are picket lines in 10 cities to-

day,” flight attendant Travis Bruce told the *Militant*. Flight attendants in Transport Workers Union Local 556, who called the action, were joined by pilots and mechanics.

Flight attendants have worked under an expired contract for 38 months; maintenance workers and pilots for four years.

“We are taking this action today to let the company know that we all stand in solidarity and that they should get back to the bargaining table,” Pamela Forte, Atlanta Domicile representative of the TWU, told the *Militant*. Flight attendants are asking for cost-of-living wage adjustments and downtime pay, she said, adding that Southwest doesn't provide lodging when, due to operational problems, crews are unable to get home.

“The airlines have consolidated down to four major carriers,” Bruce said. “Flights today are often full. We have to work harder, put in longer days and we get less money. Southwest is making big profits. We need a contract now.”

Three workers from Prospect Airport Services, who help passengers with wheelchairs and other assistance, watched the picket line for half an hour. They told the *Militant* they make \$6.25 an hour plus tips. “They're doing the right thing,” said Jennifer Rhodes. “It's great! We need to do that here.”

— Janice Lynn and Susan LaMont

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CANADA

Montreal
Slow-burning World Capitalist Depression Wreaks Havoc on Working People Across Canada. Speaker: Beverly Bernardo, Communist League. Fri., Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

Calgary
The July 15 Failed Coup Attempt in Turkey: Further Unraveling of the Imperialist Order in the Middle East. Speaker: Michel Dugré, Communist League. Fri., Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m. Dragon City Mall, 328 Centre St. SE, Unit 246. Tel.: (403) 457-9044.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester
Communist League Is Your Party. Speaker: Pete Clifford, Communist League. Sat., Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, 26-28 Hilton House, Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (0161) 478-2496.

—25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO—



August 30, 1991

PERRYSBURG, Ohio — The Fifth Constitutional Convention of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), held here August 3, reflected the accomplishments as well as the challenges still ahead for the Toledo-based union of 5,000 agricultural workers, most of them migrant.

Since its founding 24 years ago FLOC has grown in membership and geographical influence, winning contracts that can help strengthen the hand of farm laborers.

The convention celebrated the union's recent breakthrough at Dean Foods, where the company has agreed to negotiate three-way contracts with FLOC members and the owners of the farms where they work.

Dean is the last of the three major pickle processors in the region to negotiate with FLOC.



Sept. 5, 1966, cartoon shows new program to increase U.S. troops in Vietnam



August 30, 1941

MINNEAPOLIS — The Tobin-employers-government attempt to smash Local 544-CIO motor transport workers union met with further reverses this week as the CIO union hammered away on its demand for democratic industry-wide elections to determine the choice of bargaining agency for the truck drivers of this city.

A parade of CIO witnesses has appeared in the past two days before the hearings being held by state labor conciliator Blair on Tobin's AFL-“544”'s petition for certification as the exclusive bargaining agent for all the local drivers. The claims of Tobin's agents were knocked out completely when over 1,200 drivers packed the 544-CIO headquarters at the regular membership meeting. At the last reported AFL “544” meeting there was an attendance of only 56.

Cuban Revolution, Puerto Rico, Dominican Santo Domingo conference urges actions to say: No to US

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL
AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — “We need to explain the truth about the Cuban Revolution and combat the lies,” Fernando González told delegates here at the closing session of an Americas-wide conference in solidarity with the Cuban Revolution.

Despite efforts by Washington and its allies to undermine the revolution, the Cuban leadership is not on a course toward capitalism, González said. To confront the challenges today, “what we are doing in Cuba is aimed at *more* socialism.”

González, vice president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), is known internationally as one of the five Cubans who spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges because of their actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

Participants in the Eighth Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba projected actions to demand that the U.S. government end its economic war against Cuba, return Guantánamo Bay to Cuban sovereignty and cease its political subversion programs against that country.

The July 28-30 gathering, held at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD), was marked by the history of more than 150 years of intertwined revolutionary struggles in the former Spanish colonies of the Caribbean — Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Delegates from across Americas

Some 370 people from 25 countries took part. The largest delegations were the 150 participants from the Dominican Republic and more than 100 from Puerto Rico; nearly 40 were present from Colombia. Delegates also came from other Central and South American countries, as well as Haiti and the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. Also participating were 11 from the United States and three from Canada.

The conference was sponsored by the Dominican Campaign in Solidarity



Above and left, opening of international Cuba solidarity conference in Santo Domingo. From left: conference organizer Iván Delio Gómez Ochoa; Fernando González; Cristina Iván Grullón; Carlos de la Nuez, Cuba’s ambassador to the Dominican Republic; Milagros Rivera and Fernando Quiles, Puerto Rican participants discussed defense of Cuban Revolution.

with Cuba, the Puerto Rican Committee in Solidarity with Cuba, and ICAP. With presentations, workshops, photo exhibits, book launches, music and dance performances, and visits to historical sites, in addition to meals and transportation for delegates, it was a well-organized event. Members of the Dominican Campaign in Solidarity with Cuba, which has chapters in all 31 provinces, said they promoted and raised money for the event for an entire year. The university, a co-sponsor, provided generous resources for the conference.

UASD rector Iván Grullón welcomed delegates at the opening session, saying it was an honor for the university to host an international conference in solidarity with Cuba, “a nation that has fully earned, more than any, the title of free, independent and sovereign.”

Grullón added a personal note. As a youth he had joined the 1965 popular uprising that resisted the U.S. military invasion of his country. When he left Santo Domingo for France after the defeat of the mass upsurge, on the same plane were many revolutionaries wounded in combat. “And which country welcomed and treated the wounded?” he asked. “Cuba!”

The rector introduced guest of honor Delio Gómez Ochoa, who commanded

one of the Rebel Army fronts in Cuba’s revolutionary war. On June 14, 1959, less than six months after the revolutionary victory in Cuba, Gómez Ochoa and 21 other Cubans joined 150 Dominican revolutionaries on a guerrilla expedition, launched from Cuba, to overthrow dictator Rafael Leónidas Trujillo. He was captured soon after they landed and jailed in Santo Domingo until after Trujillo’s assassination in 1961.

Speaking with Grullón at the opening event were Carlos de la Nuez, Cuba’s ambassador to the Dominican Republic; ICAP President Kenia Serrano; and Fernando González. The three took part in all the conference activities.

Iván Rodríguez, coordinator of the conference organizing committee, also spoke. He is well-known here as a veteran of the June 14 Movement, which helped lead the popular struggle against the Trujillo tyranny and then the resistance to Washington’s 1965 invasion.

In acknowledging those present at the inaugural event, Serrano welcomed the nearly 100 Dominican-Haitian cane-cutters, members of the Union of Sugarcane Workers (UTC), who filled the balcony and part of the main floor. They stood up cheering loudly to applause from the audience, as Serrano reiterated “our solidarity with the Haitian people.”

Cuban Ambassador de la Nuez spoke on “The U.S. Economic Blockade and Its Consequences.” He noted that despite Washington’s re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba after half a century of failed efforts to destroy the revolution, “the U.S. blockade remains intact today.” De la Nuez outlined how the Cuban leadership is confronting the economic and political challenges facing the revolution today.

Example of Cuban Revolution

A keynote speaker was Frei Betto, a liberation theology priest from Brazil and long-time defender of the Cuban Revolution. He spoke about Cuba’s example in the world through its selfless solidarity and support to anti-imperialist struggles everywhere.

Betto told a story of when, as a young man in the early 1970s, he was jailed by the military dictatorship in Brazil for his political activities. The prison authorities were so afraid of the Cuban Revolution’s popular appeal, he said, that they barred him and others from receiving any books or materials related to Cuba. One such title, he said to much laughter, “was a book on Cubism!”

The Cuban Revolution’s record of solidarity “is an example for us, especially today at this time of crisis for the popular democratic governments in Latin America,” Betto said, referring to those in Brazil, Venezuela and elsewhere.

“One of the biggest mistakes we have made,” he said, “is to guarantee people better living conditions in terms of material goods without carrying out political work with people to develop consciousness, to forge citizens who are actors in politics.”

Betto added, “There is no better way to defend the Cuban Revolution than to work with peasants, workers and youth — to prepare people to fight to change our own countries.”

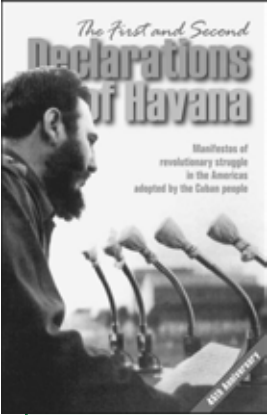
The situation in Venezuela today was discussed at a panel featuring Alí Uzcátegui, that country’s ambassador in the Dominican Republic, and Julio Chávez, a deputy in the Venezuelan parliament. They described the efforts by Venezuela’s pro-imperialist opposition and Washington to undermine the government of President Nicolás Maduro and roll back social gains won by working people.

At a session on the anti-colonial struggle in Puerto Rico, Eduardo Vil-



Youth at protest camp in front of federal courthouse in San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 4 to denounce U.S.-appointed fiscal control board set up to ensure payment of U.S. colony’s debt to wealthy bondholders. Sign at left says, “There’s only one road: Independence, freedom.”

Further reading



“What does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is a process — *From the Second Declaration of Havana* \$10

“It’s the strength and resilience of the workers who are Black and oppressed, that bowls over the system — *Jack Barnes in ‘Marxism, Liberation, and the Revolution’* \$20

The U.S. justice system is an enormous machine for repression — *Ramón Labañino in ‘Who Face the Savage? the US ‘Justice’ System’*

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Republic ties are highlight of int'l meeting

embargo and sanctions, return Guantánamo to Cuba



Conference photos by Radhamés Morales

solidarity conference at Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (at podium); vice rector Nino Félix; Lizardo, president of Dominican Senate; rector; Senator José Rafael Vargas; Kenia Serrano; and Committee in Solidarity with Cuba. Throughout history, as well as class struggles in today's world.

lanueva, president of the Human Rights Committee in Puerto Rico, highlighted the 150-year-long record of struggle against Spanish and U.S. colonial rule. He took up the campaign to free Oscar López Rivera, a leader of the independence fight who has served 35 years of a 70-year sentence in U.S. prisons on trumped-up charges of seditious conspiracy. "Oscar has become a symbol of the fight for Puerto Rico's freedom," Villanueva said.

Miriam Montes Mock spoke about efforts to free her cousin, Ana Belén Montes, arrested in 2001 while working at the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency. "Having pleaded guilty of conspiracy to commit espionage for Cuba's Directorate of Intelligence, she was sentenced to 25 years in a maximum-security prison," Montes Mock said. She had acted "to protect Cuba from the hostile policies of the United States." Montes Mock focused on the harshly restrictive prison conditions faced by Ana Montes, and thanked conference participants for their solidarity.

At another session, Fernando González noted that he had shared five of his 15-plus years in prison with "my brother Oscar" and underscored the importance of the increasingly broad international support that has been won in the battle to free him.

A new book, *The Cuban Counterrev-*

After Jan. 1, 1959, victory in Cuba over U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, 22 Cubans joined 150 Dominican revolutionaries in armed expedition to overthrow Rafael Trujillo, dictator of Dominican Republic. Below, expedition's launch from Cuba in June 1959. Most were killed in the attempt; Cuban leader Delio Gómez was captured, but freed after Trujillo's 1961 assassination.

In 1965 U.S. government sent 42,000 Marines to Santo Domingo to prevent what it called a "second Cuba." Right, working people in Santo Domingo mobilize to fight U.S. invasion, April 1965. It took more than four months for Marines to defeat resistance.



Some of the participants are activists in the fight against deportations of Haitian workers and the denial of citizenship rights to many Dominicans of Haitian ancestry, a struggle that continues to mark politics in this country. Among them was journalist Maribel Núñez, who made available informational literature by groups such as Dominicanos por Derecho (Dominicans by Right).

Conference organizers had expected nearly 40 delegates from Haiti. The two who did attend reported that one factor limiting participation from their country is that Dominican authorities are charging Haitians \$230 for an entry visa, compared to \$10 for visitors from the United States and other countries.

A sizable part of the Puerto Rican delegation were members of the youth groups of the Hostos National Independence Movement (MINH), Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) and other organizations. They described their experiences in protests in response to the political and economic crisis gripping the U.S. colony.

Lenna Ramírez, a University of Puerto Rico student active in the Hostos Youth, said they find increased receptivity among workers and youth to the struggle against U.S. colonial rule and to discussing the pro-independence perspective.

Among the Dominican delegates were farmers from Azua and Monte Plata involved in Articulación Nacional Campesina (National Peasant Network) and CONAMUCA (National Confederation of Peasant Women), which are fighting for access to land, water and credit, and against discrimination.

Conference delegates from different groups brought literature tables and sold books, posters, T-shirts, and CDs on a

Continued on page 8

olution in Puerto Rico and the Case of Carlos Muñiz Varela (translation of the Spanish title), was launched at a panel with its three authors: Jesús Arboleya, Raúl Álzaga and Ricardo Fraga. Muñiz Varela was a founding leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of young Cubans in the United States and Puerto Rico who opposed Washington's policy toward Cuba. He was assassinated in San Juan in 1979 but no one has ever been prosecuted for the crime, despite evidence that Cuban-American counterrevolutionaries and cops were involved. Álzaga and Fraga, also founders of the Maceo Brigade, have spent years exposing the facts in their comrade's murder.

The book documents how the killing of Muñiz Varela was part of the bloody record of U.S.-backed right-wing Cuban-American groups in Puerto Rico that have targeted the independence movement and defenders of the Cuban Revolution.

Delegates also held workshops and prepared action proposals around four topics: the fight against the U.S. embargo, U.S. colonialism and political prisoners, women and Latin American integration, and youth in face of the crisis.

Intertwined revolutionary struggles

The gathering was stamped by the shared history of revolutionary struggles in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. International delegates visited the city of Baní, birthplace of Máximo Gómez, who commanded the Cuban liberation army in the 1895-98 independence war against Spain. They were taken to the site of the home where Gómez grew up, as well as to the Máximo Gómez Polytechnic Institute, which was built with Cuban-donated resources and opened in 2000.

Delegates attended an event at a monument to two leading 19th century independence fighters, José Martí of Cuba and Eugenio María de Hostos of Puerto Rico. Both advocated an Antillean Federation of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the

Dominican Republic.

One of the highlights of the conference was a 65-panel exhibit of photos of the April 1965 mass upsurge in Santo Domingo. It gave a vivid picture of the popular mobilizations that began in 1963 when top military officers overthrew President Juan Bosch, elected after the 30-year Trujillo dictatorship came to an end. As workers and farmers took to the streets demanding the restoration of the president, a group of military officers, known as the "Constitutionalists," removed the pro-imperialist junta. U.S. President Lyndon Johnson then sent in 42,000 Marines to prevent what he called "a second Cuba." The resistance to the U.S. occupation was led by Constitutionalist officer Francisco Caamaño.

As conference organizer Iván Rodríguez noted during a visit to a monument to Caamaño, "For five months the Dominican people resisted the armed forces of the world's most powerful nation." Several conference organizers, like Rodríguez, were veterans of the 1965 upsurge, including Vicenta Vélez, a fellow combatant and widow of Caamaño.

Also on display was a photo exhibit marking the 100th anniversary of the first U.S. military occupation of the Dominican Republic, 1916-24, which coincided with the U.S. occupation of neighboring Haiti.

One of the Puerto Rican delegates was Carlos Padilla, who was jailed together with Nationalist Party leader Pedro Albizu Campos after a 1950 pro-independence revolt on the island. When the Cuban revolutionary government took power in 1959, Padilla was asked by his friend and comrade Ernesto Che Guevara to help launch the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina.

Class struggles unfolding today

Throughout the three days, participants exchanged views and experiences not only about defense of the Cuban Revolution but about class struggles unfolding in the world today.

Reading ...

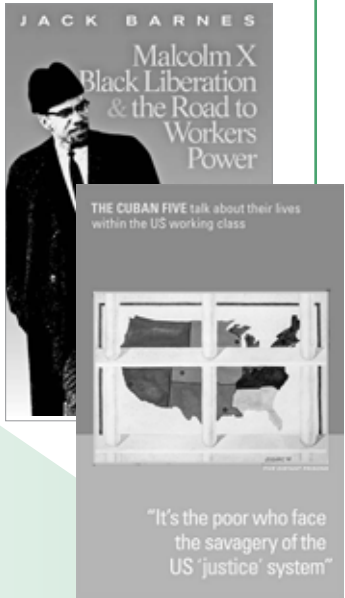
Revolution is possible." Declaration of

resilience of, not the you over." Malcolm X, *Black Liberation & the Road to Workers Power*

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Coverage of the resistance to the 1965 US invasion of the Dominican Republic in: **Intercontinental Press**

Intercontinental Press, a weekly that specialized in international news and analysis of interest to the labor and socialist movement, published from 1963 to 1986.

The complete index is now online, as are articles through 1974, including more than 100 on the class struggle in the Dominican Republic and the resistance to the 1965 U.S. invasion.

Online at: themilitant.com

Conflict in Crimea, Ukraine

Continued from front page
bass region has increased to a level not seen in nearly a year.

Kiev put its troops near Crimea on combat alert, at the same time appealing for support to the rulers of Germany, France and the U.S., as well as imperialist-led bodies such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The escalation of the conflict in Ukraine comes as Washington is seeking an agreement with Moscow for military collaboration in Syria. To achieve this, the U.S. rulers are willing to grant Moscow a measure of latitude to protect its interests in what Russia's capitalist rulers consider their "near abroad."

While giving lip service to Ukrainian sovereignty and maintaining economic sanctions against Russia and Crimea that hit hard on workers' lives and working conditions, Washington has pressed the Ukrainian government to reach an accommodation with Moscow. At a press briefing Aug. 11, State Department spokesperson Elizabeth Trudeau stressed that while "Crimea is part of Ukraine and is recognized as such by the international community," Washington is calling for both Moscow and Kiev to "reduce the tensions, reduce the rhetoric and get back to talks."

Citing the alleged sabotage in Crimea, Russian President Vladimir Putin said it would be "pointless" to proceed with talks involving officials from France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine that were planned for September alongside the G20 summit meeting in China. The Russian business newspaper *Vedomosti* speculated that Putin is looking to either tear up or alter the conditions of the Minsk agreement — the crumbling

cease-fire in the separatist war in eastern Ukraine that was brokered by the German and French governments last year.

Working people in Russia face a deepening economic crisis. The Russian economy has been in recession for the last year and a half, and real wages fell by 9.5 percent last year. There have been workers' protests against lack of pay and cuts in social services. Military moves and efforts to whip up nationalist patriotic sentiment, many commentators say, can help shore up Putin's United Russia Party leading into next month's parliamentary elections.

Moscow's seizure and annexation of Crimea, which was already home to a major Russian naval base, took place in the wake of the mass protests known as the Maidan that forced out the pro-Moscow government of Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014.

Over the following months, the Russian government sent weapons and fighters to back separatists who set up the self-proclaimed "People's Republics" of Donetsk and Luhansk in the industrial region along Ukraine's eastern border with Russia. Nearly 10,000 combatants and civilians have been killed on both sides in this war.

While Moscow's intervention is a threat to workers in Ukraine today, the biggest dangers they face are from the country's capitalist rulers. The government headed by Poroshenko, a billionaire factory owner, has used the conflict as a justification for clamping down on political space for working people. A recent report issued by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, titled "You Don't Exist," documents "ar-



bitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and torture in eastern Ukraine" by both sides.

One case described in the report is the detention of Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi, a member of the Communist Party of Ukraine who was a dentist and an elected member of the town council in Kostyantynivka. He described being held incommunicado under brutal conditions for 15 months, while authorities denied he was in their custody. The report describes similar abusive detentions committed by separatist forces

in Donetsk and Luhansk against those accused of supporting Ukrainian sovereignty.

Poroshenko has tried to smear workers who protest deteriorating conditions and unpaid wages as a "fifth column" backing Moscow. This hasn't stopped workers from looking for ways to fight. Members of the Independent Trade Union of Miners struck the Krasnoarmiiskvuhillia Stahanova mine, located in the government-controlled area of the Donetsk region, on Aug. 11. They are demanding three months back wages.

Int'l conference in Santo Domingo

Continued from page 7
range of subjects. Books brought by members of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States flew off the table on subjects ranging from the fight for women's rights to Maurice Bishop and the

Grenada Revolution, the Cuban Revolution, Malcolm X, the 1930s Teamsters struggles and U.S. politics today.

The conference adopted a Final Declaration urging actions internationally to demand that the U.S. government lift its trade and travel sanctions against Cuba and return Guantánamo Bay to Cuba. It called for eliminating U.S. laws and policies that encourage Cubans to migrate to the United States outside legal channels and that seek to lure Cuban doctors to desert volunteer medical missions abroad.

The declaration expressed solidarity with Venezuela, with the fight to release Oscar López and other political prisoners in the U.S. and around the world, and with the fight for the withdrawal of foreign troops of the so-called United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

The next continental conference will be held in 2018 in Nicaragua. European and African regional conferences in solidarity with Cuba are scheduled for later this year.

Struggles of Turkic peoples bedevil Moscow, Ankara

BY EMMA JOHNSON

As tensions between Moscow and Kiev ratchet up around Crimea, and while Moscow and Ankara move to improve relations despite backing opposite sides in the civil war raging in Syria, the large numbers of Turkic peoples in Russia and adjacent former Soviet republics pose potential sources of instability for the rulers of both Russia and Turkey.

The Tatars, Crimea's inhabitants for centuries, are an oppressed nationality making up 12-13 percent of the peninsula's population. They were brutalized by czarism before the 1917 Russian Revolution. In the early 1920s, under the Bolsheviks' Crimeanization policy led by V.I. Lenin, Tatar culture flourished.

After the death of Lenin, the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy that consolidated control headed by Joseph Stalin reversed this course. They subjected the Tatars to mass deportation during the Second World War.

While Tatars are discounted and ignored by the major capitalist governments in Washington and Europe and persecuted by Moscow, they are part of some 200 million people in the world speaking a Turkic language and practicing Islam. The Crimean Tatars have close ties with Turkey.

In Turkey, approximately 150,000 people are Crimean Tatars, and an estimated 5 million are of Crimean Tatar descent, the result of waves of refugees fleeing czarist and later Stalinist rule.

Following Moscow's annexation of Crimea, which was opposed by the Tatars, they have been subjected to repression. Their national assembly, the Mej-

lis, has been banned and many historic leaders barred from entering Crimea.

Following the Second World Congress of the Crimean Tatars, held in Ankara in August 2015, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with Tatar leaders Mustafa Dzhemilev and Refat Chubarov. He pledged never to recognize Moscow's annexation of Crimea.

Another branch of the Tatar people make up the majority of the population of Tatarstan, which has been at the forefront of the movement for autonomy for republics within the Russian Federation, leading to friction with Moscow, and posing questions over the conditions of

Muslim people there.

During the last two decades Ankara has built close economic, educational and cultural ties with Tatarstan. Turkish businesses today account for an important portion of jobs and direct foreign investment there, estimated at \$1.5 billion and expected to increase.

When Ankara shot down a Russian plane over the Syrian border in November 2015, Moscow severed ties and instituted economic sanctions against Turkey. The Tatarstan government declined to issue any statement of political solidarity with the Russian government and opposed cutting ties with Ankara.

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Join Mine Workers protest Sept. 8!

The following statement was released Aug. 17 by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president.

The Socialist Workers Party urges workers to get on buses or join caravans heading for Washington, D.C., for the Sept. 8 United Mine Workers of America rally to fight coal bosses’ continuing efforts to eliminate health care and pension benefits for thousands of retired coal miners and their families.

UMWA members have tirelessly fought attempts by the owners of coal mines to inflict devastating blows on medical care miners won in massive struggles — for themselves and their communities.

It took big labor battles to win the health and welfare fund, paid for by royalties on coal production, to cover pensions and medical care, including the strike of 400,000 union coal miners in April 1946.

With the world contraction of capitalist production and trade and the steep fall in the price of coal, money flowing into the health and retirement fund has slowed and many coal bosses are using bankruptcy laws — which prioritize creditors and give short shrift to workers — to tear up union contracts and end

pension and health care obligations to miners.

I joined thousands of active and retired miners and their supporters in a series of UMWA-organized marches in 2013 to protest attacks on retired miners’ benefits by Peabody Energy and its spinoff, Patriot Coal. The ruthless capitalist owners of Peabody placed all their UMWA-organized mines in Patriot, then used bankruptcy laws to attack workers’ gains.

The Sept. 8 action will speak not only for tens of thousands of coal miners but for millions of workers whose pensions have been threatened or reduced and millions more whose Social Security benefits fall far short of providing enough to live on.

The action will underline the importance of organizing labor unions and using their power, including in the fight for lifetime health care for all.

Actions like this increase the confidence of the working class. They strengthen our ability to build a movement capable of taking power out of the hands of the capitalists, establishing a workers and farmers government and joining the worldwide struggle for socialism.

All out for the Sept. 8 UMWA rally in Washington!

Stop the attacks on Muslims, mosques!

The following statement by Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, was released Aug. 14.

The Socialist Workers Party condemns the cold-blooded assassination of Imam Maulama Akonjee and his friend Thara Uddin as they left a mosque in Ozone Park, Queens, Aug. 13. We call on workers, farmers and defenders of democratic rights to condemn this vicious attack. We call for the arrest and prosecution of whoever is responsible.

This attack and others on Muslims and mosques are the inevitable consequence of the climate created by the U.S. capitalist rulers and their government. They promote anti-Muslim hysteria to serve their war aims and to justify spying on mosques and Muslims by the FBI, New York City cops and other government agencies. The fact is that most victims of Islamist terrorism are Muslims. We oppose police spying. History has shown it is aimed above all at the working class and our unions.

Washington talks about peace while escalating endless wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria.

The Pentagon — with President Barack Obama’s personal supervision — uses drones to assassinate anyone it decides to, acting as judge, jury and executioner and killing hundreds of civilians along the way. And this doesn’t include those killed in other U.S. airstrikes and bombings. Both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump and their parties endorse this.

While Obama has criticized Trump for his demagogic remarks slandering Muslims, his administration has put thousands of Muslims on the no-fly list and denied many of them visas to enter the United States because of their faith.

As the worldwide capitalist economic crisis deepens with no end in sight, there will be more attacks on democratic and political rights and on workers and our unions at home, as the U.S. propertied rulers accelerate trade wars and shooting wars abroad.

To defend its interests, the working class must vigorously oppose the U.S. war drive and attacks on democratic rights. An injury to one is an injury to all.

Stop the attacks on mosques and Muslims! U.S. troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria!

Protests condemn assassination of Muslims

Continued from front page

day, along with neighborhood residents and others from across the metropolitan area to express outrage at the killings and show solidarity with the Bangladeshi community.

Socialist Workers Party New York organizer Norton Sandler talked with people there and distributed a statement — “Stop Attacks on Muslims and Mosques!” — issued by Jacob Perasso, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New York.

“This was not a robbery,” Nazim Uddin told the *Militant*. “It’s been worse lately with more harassment and threats. People come through the neighborhood and shout from their cars at the older people wearing traditional clothes. They call them ‘towel heads’ or ‘Taliban.’ Sometimes people spit on them.”

“They shot Imam Akonjee and Thara Uddin like they were animals,” said Millat Uddin, who regularly attends the mosque and is active in the Ozone Park community. “We have a community here with all kinds of people living together — different races, different nationalities. They are trying to mess up the peace in this community.”

More than 1,000 people turned out for the Aug. 15 funeral of the two men.

Some in the crowd carried signs that read “Muslim Lives Matter” and “We Want Justice.”

Jewel Chowdhury, a leader of the Jalalabad Association, a Bangladeshi community group, spoke

for the families. He criticized the New York City police department for giving “mixed messages” and “creating confusion” in the community — referring to claims by some cops that there is no reason to believe the two were killed because they are Muslims, that it could be because of an alleged “Muslim-Latino” dispute.

The “crime” of the two men was that they “were immigrants, minorities, and indeed Muslims,” Chowdhury, told the crowd.

Police filed murder charges Aug. 15 against 35-year-old Oscar Morel in connection with the killing.

This is the latest and most deadly attack on Muslims in New York. Taxi driver Nur Nabi was stabbed as he left his mosque in the Parkchester area of the Bronx in August 2013. Last December Sarker Haque was beaten in his store in Astoria, Queens, by a man saying he would “kill Muslims.”

In January two young men screaming “ISIS! ISIS!” beat Mujibur Rahman, a Bangladeshi-born man, as he walked his niece home from school in the Parkchester area. Mohammed Atique Ashraf, wearing a white prayer cap as he walked to a Parkchester mosque, was attacked June 18. At a protest against the attack on Ashraf, community activist Mohammed Mujumder told News12 The Bronx that there had been six similar incidents since December.

Seth Galinsky contributed to this article.

Report: Baltimore cops violate the Constitution

BY SETH GALINSKY

Baltimore cops systematically violate constitutional rights, stop and frisk thousands of people because they are Black, use “excessive” and “unreasonable” force, lock people up because they don’t like their attitude, and humiliate women who report rapes. These are among the conclusions of a 163-page report by the Department of Justice released Aug. 10.

“The Department of Justice revealed what Baltimore already knew,” Tawanda Jones, whose brother Tyrone West died in police custody in 2013, told the *Militant* by phone. “These are not isolated instances. The police who beat my brother to death were of every color and hue. They are the color of blue, that’s why they got away with it.”

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake requested the investigation last year, after thousands took to the streets to protest the April 2015 death of Freddie Gray in police custody. Gray was chased by cops — they say he “fled unprovoked upon noticing police” in an area known for drug dealing — arrested and put in the back of a police van. Cops still claim they don’t know how his spinal cord was severed.

Weeks of protests led to six cops — three Black, three Caucasian — being indicted for manslaughter, but after three were acquitted, the prosecutor dropped the charges against the rest.

The report is a sign that the U.S. rulers are worried the Baltimore cops have gone too far and need to be reined in. City and federal officials are close to agreeing on a consent decree, under which police training and practices will be revised under court supervision.

Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department Civil Rights Division, said at a press conference the pattern of “serious violations of the U.S. Constitution and federal law” had “eroded the public’s trust in the police.”

Speaking after Gupta, Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis asserted that it is a minority of police officers who carried out the “egregious” acts of “racism, sexism” detailed in the report.

Davis says he fired six cops and ordered new vans or retrofitted ones to replace the type that transported Gray. The new vehicles have cameras that record inside, and seat belts that can be held on to by prisoners whose hands are cuffed behind their backs.

Report details patterns of abuse

While Davis claims that it was just a few bad apples, the report details case after case of police abuse encouraged by top levels in the police department, often in collusion with prosecutors.

Among the most egregious examples:

A cop strip-searched a teenage boy in public and in front of his girlfriend, then denied it. After the teen filed a complaint, the same cop strip-searched him again and grabbed the teen’s genitals. Cops claimed they found drugs on the youth, but never produced them as evidence and all charges were dropped.

From January 2010 to May 2014, cops made 301,000 pedestrian stops, but the “true number of stops is likely far higher” because many go unreported. One African-American man was stopped 34 times without being charged with a crime. Although Blacks make up 63 percent of the city’s population, 95 percent of those stopped were Black. Nearly 50 percent of the police force and police officials are Black.

The cops often used loitering charges to harass Blacks. On several occasions, youth were arrested for “loitering” — on the doorsteps of their own homes.

The report says that it could not reach a “conclusive determination” on what working people in Baltimore refer to as “rough rides,” when the cops drive recklessly with people they’ve arrested handcuffed in the back of the van. But it “found evidence that BPD officers routinely fail to safely secure arrestees in transport vans with seatbelts.”

One section of the report is titled, “Gender Bias in BPD’s Response to Sexual Assault.” Cops frequently told women reporting rapes, “Why are you messing that guy’s life up?”

In one case a prosecutor emailed a cop, “This victim seems like a conniving little whore.” The cop replied “Lmao! [Laughing my ass off] I feel the same.”

Arlene Rubinstein contributed to this article.