

THE MILITANT

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India and Pakistan rulers clash
as protests shake Kashmir
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 40 OCTOBER 24, 2016

Colombia ‘no’ vote reflects discontent with gov’t, FARC

BY MARK THOMPSON

Voters in an Oct. 2 referendum in Colombia narrowly rejected a peace pact that had been signed just days earlier between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Opposition parties had campaigned against the deal, appealing to resentment at concessions granted to the FARC. The majority of those eligible did not vote.

“People saw the agreement as a done deal,” Ever Causada, a spokesperson for Sintramienergética, a union of miners and other energy workers, told the *Militant* by phone from Barranquilla Oct. 11. “In the areas most affected by the confrontation between the government and the FARC, the vote was overwhelming for yes.”

Tens of thousands joined student-led marches in the capital, Bogotá, and other cities Oct. 5 urging continued support for a negotiated end to decades-long fighting between the government and the guerrillas. The country’s union federations have is-

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Protest in DC demands: ‘Free Oscar López now!’

Attacks on pay, rights fuel anger in Puerto Rico



Militant/Ruth Nebbia

Washington-imposed fiscal board takes over Puerto Rican economy, highlights island is U.S. colony. Opposition to this attack builds fight to free Oscar López, jailed in U.S. for 35 years.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

WASHINGTON — “President Barack Obama must understand that the release of my father is a demand not only of the people of Puerto Rico, but an international demand,” Clarisa López, daughter of Oscar López Rivera, told a crowd of 1,000 people at

Lafayette Park across from the White House Oct. 9.

Participants came here by plane, bus and car from Puerto Rico, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey and elsewhere to demand his freedom. The 73-year-old Puerto Rican independence fighter has been held in U.S. prisons for more than 35 years.

The protest took place as outrage is growing among Puerto Rican workers and farmers over how they are being battered by the economic crisis of capitalism, exacerbated by U.S. colonial domination. Washington has twisted

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Cuba’s response to hurricane — the difference a revolution makes

BY SETH GALINSKY

What difference does a living revolution with the working class in power make in real life? Just look at the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, which ravaged parts of Haiti and eastern Cuba before causing major flooding in Florida, the Carolinas and Georgia.

There are more than 1,000 dead

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY:
CUBA IS EXAMPLE FOR
WORKERS WORLDWIDE
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and still counting in Haiti, a capitalist country dominated by U.S. imperialism. In revolutionary Cuba, while thousands of homes and acres of forests and crops were destroyed, there was not one single fatality. In the United States, at least 23 people are dead as of Oct. 10.

In the midst of its own challenges in repairing the storm’s destruction, Cuba sent reinforcements to Haiti to join its medical mission there to combat cholera and other diseases in the wake of the storm.

Matthew hit both Haiti and Guantánamo province in Cuba Oct. 4 as a Category 4 hurricane. In the coastal town of Baracoa, “the waves reached the second floor,” one resident told *Juventud Rebelde*. Some 90 percent of

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Washington’s plans for Mosul attack sharpen conflicts over future in Iraq



Aljazeera

Iraqi troops during reconquest of Fallujah from Islamic State, May 2016. U.S.-backed Iraqi Army, Shiite militias backed by Tehran, Turkish-trained Sunni troops and Kurdish peshmerga forces are jockeying for who will have power after planned offensive in Mosul.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Washington has deployed more ground troops to Iraq for a long-planned offensive against Islamic State in Mosul, one of the group’s last remaining strongholds. But the different forces involved are jockeying for position — including the governments of Iraq, Turkey, the autonomous Iraqi Kurdish region, and Shiite militias backed by Tehran. After two brutal U.S. invasions and years of sec-

tarian Shia rule in Baghdad, Iraq is on the verge of coming apart.

At the same time, Moscow and the regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria are pressing ahead in their murderous assault on opposition forces in the city of Aleppo, trying to shift the balance of forces in their favor before any further negotiations on a cease-fire.

Washington and its imperialist allies are too weak politically to directly

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Fight over voting rights goes down to wire in 2016 elections

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

With just weeks to go before the presidential election, voting rights for African-Americans — a conquest wrested by the Civil War and the massive Black rights movement of the 1950s and ’60s — remain under attack. Despite recent court rulings overturning use of voter ID cards in a number of states, local governments and county election boards have been maneuvering to keep voting restrictions in place.

The U.S. Supreme Court gutted key components of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in 2013, holding that they were no longer necessary. State and local governments in a number of areas immediately began putting strict voter ID laws into effect, as well as restricting early voting, cutting back the number of polling sites, especially in Black communities, and eliminating same-day registration.

The Voting Rights Act had codi-

fied gains won by the mass Black-led movement that smashed Jim Crow segregation, including giving the federal government control over any pro-

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Locked-out Indiana Honeywell workers rally, gain support

Bosses, politicians blame workers for NY derailments

75th anniversary of massacre of Jews marked at Babi Yar

BY LEA SHERMAN

Seventy-five years ago one of Nazi Germany’s largest massacres of Jews took place at Babi Yar, known as Babyn Yar in Ukraine. Nazi officers reported to Berlin that they gunned down 33,771 Jews at the cavernous ravine in Kiev over two days, Sept. 29-30, 1941.

Helped by Ukrainian collaborators, this “holocaust by bullets” foreshadowed Adolf Hitler’s “final solution” in the gas chambers and crematoria of Auschwitz, Treblinka and elsewhere.

In June 1941 Nazi forces invaded the Soviet Union, nullifying the 1939 Stalin-Hitler nonaggression pact. This drew the Stalinized Soviet Union into the second imperialist world war, which ultimately pitted the rulers in Germany, Japan and Italy against those in the U.S., France, the U.K. and other European powers, as well as Moscow. By mid-September, the Soviet army was driven from Kiev.

Starting Sept. 24, bombs planted by retreating Soviet forces exploded in downtown Kiev, causing a large fire killing hundreds of German officers and soldiers and leaving thousands of Ukrainians homeless. The Nazis blamed the Jews of the city.

Nazi circulars ordered all “Yids” to assemble and bring their documents, money, valuables and warm clothes. Rumors were spread that U.S. ships would take the Jews to Palestine and that those who didn’t show would be shot.

As thousands began arriving with whatever they could carry, men, women and children were marched to Babi Yar, told to undress, then shot in the ravine, leaving layer after layer of dead and dy-

ing.

By the time Soviet troops retook Kiev in 1943, it is estimated that more than 100,000 people were murdered at Babi Yar. The overwhelming number were Jews, but Romas, Soviet prisoners, Ukrainian partisans and anyone who put up resistance to the Nazi occupation were killed as well.

After the Soviet troops defeated the fascist forces, Stalinist officials both in Moscow and Kiev refused to build any monument to the victims in Babi Yar.

Jews and opponents of Stalinist dictatorial rule in Ukraine tried to get out the truth of what happened. They stepped up their efforts after Stalin’s death in 1953, and Nikita Khrushchev’s 1956 revelations about Stalin’s anti-Semitic policies.

In 1959 Viktor Nekrasov, an award-winning author for *In the Trenches of Stalingrad*, published a call for a monument to the slaughter of the Jews at Babi Yar. But authorities built a dam instead, planning to fill the ravine and build a park and sports stadium. The dam collapsed in 1961, leaving 150 dead in surrounding working-class neighborhoods.

After the disaster, Soviet poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko visited the site and wrote the poem “Babi Yar,” which begins “No monument stands over Babi Yar.”

The next year composer Dmitri Shostakovich worked with Yevtushenko to write his 13th Symphony, “Babi Yar,” based on the poem and some of Yevtushenko’s other anti-Stalinist poems. They were told it would be banned unless they toned it down.



Nazi troops massacred over 30,000 Jews at Babi Yar ravine in Kiev, Ukraine, above, Sept. 29-30, 1941. Stalinist regimes in both USSR and Ukraine refused to build a monument to those killed. Inset, hundreds gather at site for unauthorized rally on 25th anniversary of slaughter in 1966.



More exposure of the truth came in 1966 when Anatoly Kuznetsov published a heavily censored book called *Babi Yar*. One chapter detailing the slaughter of the Jews was written by Dina Pronichev, one of the massacre’s few survivors.

On the 25th anniversary in 1966 hundreds gathered in the ravine in an unauthorized rally. Pronichev, Nekrasov and Ivan Dzyuba spoke. Dzyuba was a Marxist and author of *Internationalism vs. Russification*, defending the course of the Russian Revolution under V.I. Lenin, including the fight to free Ukrainians and other oppressed peoples from years of oppression under the czarist empire. After Lenin’s death, Stalin led a counterrevolution, restoring Russian domination over Ukraine.

In 1976 Soviet officials finally put up a monument at Babi Yar, but dedicated it to “Soviet citizens” who died there, refusing to say that Jews were the main target. Finally in 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the independence of Ukraine, a menorah was erected at the site dedicated to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

On the 75th anniversary of Babi Yar this year there were a number of events organized to memorialize those killed. Dzyuba, now 85, was awarded a medal Sept. 28 by the World Jewish Congress for his fearless stance against anti-Semitism.

One feature of the activities was an

ongoing debate over the role of various Ukrainian nationalist forces that collaborated with the Nazis and aided the killing of Jews during the German occupation.

In 2014 as part of what became known as the Maidan, Ukrainian working people mobilized and overthrew the repressive pro-Moscow regime of then-President Viktor Yanukovich. The Moscow-controlled media tried to smear the massive street protests in Kiev with false charges that they were “fascist” and Ukrainian workers who participated in them anti-Semitic.

The Jewish Question A Marxist Interpretation

by Abram Leon

Leon explains why the propertied rulers incite renewed Jew-hatred in the epoch of capitalism’s decline.

Traces the historical rationalizations of anti-Semitism to the fact that Jews became a “people-class” of merchants and moneylenders in the centuries preceding the domination of industrial capitalism. \$25

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THE
Jewish
QUESTION

A MARXIST INTERPRETATION
ABRAM LEON

THE MILITANT

Defend women’s right to choose abortion!

More than 100,000 people took to the streets across Poland Oct. 3 in protests that defeated moves for a near total ban on abortions.

The ‘Militant’ follows the fight for women’s right to choose, a life-and-death question for the unity of the working class.



Sipa USA via AP/Krystian Dobuszynski
Oct. 3 demonstration in Warsaw, Poland, protesting proposal for ban on abortions.

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‘SWP is your party’ — the alternative to Trump, Clinton

BY MAGGIE TROWE

A recently released 2005 video of Donald Trump bragging in vulgar terms about using his fame and wealth to aggressively grope and press himself on women disgusted millions of workers.

The propertied rulers, their mouth-pieces in the editorial offices of the major media and the Republican presidential candidate’s Democratic rival Hillary Clinton have all ratcheted up their efforts to prevent Trump’s election. Paul Ryan, John McCain and other machine Republicans, tepidly backing the Republican nominee at best, are defecting.

Conservative commentator Glenn Beck said opposing Trump is the “moral, ethical choice,” even if it means a Clinton victory.

The video and other crude or demagogic remarks by the candidate hand the rulers an excuse to rail against a Trump victory. Their vitriol, however, is aimed not at Trump himself or his policies, but at the millions of workers angry about the impact of the grinding capitalist depression who back him or who reject Clinton, Obama and politics-as-usual. Regardless of the outcome of the election, the propertied owners fear that more and more workers are losing confidence in the traditional bourgeois parties and looking for a new road forward.

“Rarely has the gulf between elite and non-elite yawned so wide in US politics,” Gillian Tett wrote in an Oct. 9 *Financial Times* article after talking with workers in the upstate New York town of Inlet.

David Leonhardt used his first *New York Times* op-ed column Oct. 11 to appeal to the rulers and the well-off meritocratic professional layer he is a part of, saying they will pay a price for being disconnected from and contemptuous of those suffering from the economic crisis. The U.S. economy is bogged down in “the great American stagnation,” he says, calling it “the central challenge of our time.”

“[R]ejecting Trump isn’t enough,” he says. Defeating Trump will not do away with what the media calls the “Trump Movement.” Angry workers will not go away.

Leonhardt advises the rulers to lessen their attacks and make economic concessions. But the bosses don’t “choose” to attack the working class, they are driven to do so. They will continue and deepen their attacks as the only road they see out of the deep crisis of their capitalist system.

“The mass rejection of Trump’s con-

duct in the video shows how widespread working-class respect for women’s rights and dignity is,” Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy told workers as she campaigned in Washington, D.C., Oct. 11. “But both candidates are contemptuous of workers, and the pornographication of capitalist politics erupts because the wealthy have no way forward.

“The Socialist Workers Party has confidence in the ability of the working class in its millions — Caucasian, African-American, Asian, Latino, U.S.-born and immigrant,” she said. “We can unite, defend ourselves and build an international movement to end the dictatorship of capital, transforming ourselves as we do it.

We say ‘Join the SWP!’

“We reject the coarseness, corruption and arrogance of the capitalist candidates, whose system depends on war, exploitation and dog-eat-dog human relations,” Kennedy said. “We say, join with the Socialist Workers Party to act in our class interests and fight to replace this system with a workers and farmers government based on human solidarity.”

Kennedy and Cynthia Jaquith, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, were part of a fact-finding and solidarity visit with workers in the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico in September. They campaigned together in Orlando and Kissimmee, Florida, Oct. 3, talking about the impact of the crisis on workers in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

The region is growing as thousands of Puerto Ricans move there, hoping to find relief from staggering unemployment and social crisis on the island.

“The severe economic crisis affecting the whole world came to Puerto Rico sooner and is having a more devastating impact because the island is a colony of the United States,” Kennedy told *Información al Desnudo* reporter Edwin Chungo Molina in Orlando.

Molina asked Kennedy about the PROMESA law adopted by the U.S. Congress and the fiscal control board it imposes on Puerto Rico. The junta has the right to sell assets, lay off government workers and lower the minimum wage in order to pay Puerto Rico’s debts to the big bondholders.

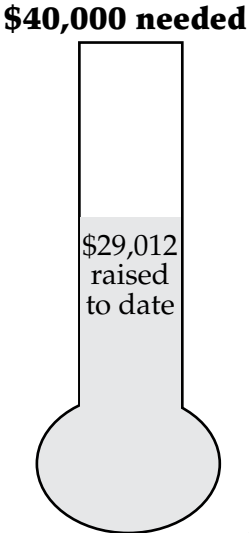
“I oppose PROMESA,” Kennedy said. “It’s a law to strangle the Puerto Rican people and should be outlawed. And I would free independence fighter Oscar López now.”

Join SWP campaigning! Make a donation! \$40,000 needed

Campaigners for the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart are getting a great response: discussing with workers door to door the world crisis of capitalist production and trade, joining protests against cop brutality and against boss attacks, and asking people to join the SWP. Kennedy just returned from a nine-day fact-finding visit to Puerto Rico in solidarity with fighters for independence from Washington’s colonial rule.

You can join in these efforts — just get in touch with the party in your area, listed on page 8.

You can also contribute to the \$40,000 Campaign Fund that makes this work possible. Contributions can be made out to Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee and sent to 227 W. 29th St., 6th Floor, New York, NY 10001.



SWP supporter designs new button, order now!



Above, Militant/Clay Dennison

SEATTLE — Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart joins Mary Martin, right, SWP candidate for governor of Washington, and campaign supporter Pat Scott, who works at Walmart, at a meeting here Oct. 8. Scott made a new campaign button, inset, for Hart and running mate Alyson Kennedy.

“I met Alyson when she came here to speak in September. I told others I felt like I had been living under a rock, and now I had my eyes opened,” Scott told the meeting. “I made the button to wear at work and let other people know about the campaign. People would ask me, ‘What’s that about?’

“I didn’t make the button to get national attention,” she said, but the national campaign liked it and wanted to make copies to use everywhere.

Seattle supporters of the Socialist Workers Party produced the buttons and are taking orders at seattleswp@qwestoffice.net.

— MARY MARTIN

When Kennedy’s running mate Osborne Hart visited the Seattle area he talked with teacher Carol Brouillette on her porch Oct. 10. She liked Hart and Kennedy’s biographies and their program, but asked, “Aren’t you too late? People don’t know about you.”

“The capitalists don’t want to acknowledge our existence, but the Socialist Workers Party is getting more press coverage because there are reporters who know many workers are angry about worsening conditions and are repelled by the bourgeois candidates,” Hart said. “Bringing the SWP to the working class doesn’t end Nov. 8. We are building the party day after day, 365 days a year, as we meet workers like you in working-class areas and in labor and social struggles.”

Brouillette bought a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by SWP

National Secretary Jack Barnes and a *Militant* subscription.

“After receiving a sample ballot and seeing your name, I decided to look you up,” Christin Cope-Hill, a union and women’s rights supporter who has worked in the western oil fields and in the automotive industry in Colorado, wrote to Kennedy Oct. 8. “I am so glad I did. It was inspirational seeing everything you’ve fought for over the years and all the work you’ve done and continue to do. It was so refreshing to see that the fight continues. So thank you. Just for existing. You’ve inspired me to keep my chin up and do what I can to spread the message.”

Anthony Dutrow in Miami, Arlene Rubinstein in Washington, D.C., and Mary Martin in Seattle contributed to this article.

Off and running in the \$100,000 SWP 2016 Party-Building Fund

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Contributions have started to come in to the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. The goal is to raise \$100,000 in full and on time by Dec. 7.

The annual fund is necessary to cover the long-term work of a professional communist party, self-financed from its base in the working class. It’s an essential component of meeting the party’s annual budget, along with the weekly voluntary contributions from party members.

“The check for the first payment of \$4,000 is on its way,” reports John Studer, organizer of the party in New York. “More than \$9,000 has been pledged towards our goal of \$22,500. Over the coming weeks SWP members will contact long-time and new supporters of the party’s political work in New England, New Jersey and New York to go over the top.”

Party supporters in Oakland are also off to a good start, sending in

\$3,590 towards their goal of \$15,000.

To join the effort, contact the party branch in your area, listed on page 8.

Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund September 24 - December 7	
Area	Quota
Atlanta	\$11,000
Chicago	\$11,500
Lincoln	\$300
Los Angeles	\$9,000
Miami	\$3,500
New York	\$22,500
Oakland	\$15,000
Philadelphia	\$4,500
Seattle	\$8,000
Twin Cities	\$4,500
Wash., DC	\$8,500
Other	
Total	\$98,300
Should be	\$100,000

Workers in Indiana protest lead poisoning in their homes

BY DAN FEIN
AND JOHN HAWKINS

EAST CHICAGO, Ind. — “We’ve only lived here since April. Still all my children have tested positive for lead,” Roshanda Walker, a beautician who lives in the West Calumet Housing Complex here, told John Hawkins. He was knocking on workers’ doors in the neighborhood, campaigning for the Socialist Workers Party with Dan Fein, candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois.

The 346-unit complex was built over the ruins of a copper smelter run by Anaconda, which went bankrupt long ago, and next to a U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery plant that closed in 1985.

On Sept. 1, Mayor Anthony Copeland announced the housing complex would be demolished, scuttling a federal Environmental Protection Agency plan to remove the contaminated soil. Tenants were told they had to leave by Nov. 1.

“I haven’t found a place,” Lavario Lucas told Fein. Lucas is a 31-year-old unemployed packinghouse worker with five children under the age of 10, all of whom have tested positive for lead.

“The lead and arsenic poisoning of children in this area is due to capitalism with its inherent thirst for profit,” Fein said. “When the smelters operated here, where were the safety provisions to prevent the soil from being contaminated?”

“With lead and arsenic poisoning the soil and the smelters closed, why was housing built here? The health of people who would live here was not a factor.

“Only the working class — whose interests are human solidarity, not private profit — has an interest in protecting nature and ensuring safety on and off the job,” Fein said. “That’s why the SWP fights to unite workers to overthrow the dictatorship of capital and put a workers and farmers government in power.”

Like the majority of residents in the complex, Lucas is African-American. But many residents are Caucasian and

Latino. “This affects 1,400 people in this complex alone,” he said. “The lead contamination extends beyond the complex.” The extent of the contamination came to light in May when the EPA released soil test data. The maximum lead level was 91,100 parts per million at a depth of 18 to 24 inches on the southwest side of the complex — almost eight times higher than the level the agency says requires emergency cleanup.

West Calumet residents demanding action from government officials, packed an Oct. 1 EPA meeting at the Riley Park Recreation Center here.

The EPA first became involved in the 1980s. A 1998 report shows the agency knew at least as early as 1997 of an even older lead factory demolished where the housing complex was built.

The EPA listed the roughly 400-acre USS Lead area as a “Superfund” site requiring cleanup in 2009.

“At the town hall meeting a few days ago, we asked why they’re still letting people move in?” Walker said.

Several dozen residents and supporters met Oct. 6 at the library to plan an action demanding extension of the Nov. 1 deadline, immediate release of deposits paid on their current homes and assistance in finding new housing.

Leroy Watson contributed to this article.

‘Justice not served’ in cop killing of Idaho rancher



Justice for Jack

Friends and family of rancher Jack Yantis, who was shot and killed by two sheriff’s deputies on Nov. 1 a year ago, celebrated his life with a community cookout in a public park in Council, Idaho, Oct. 8. The barbecue followed a baby shower for his daughter Sarah held earlier in the day. The Idaho State Attorney has refused to charge the two cops who shot Yantis.

Above right, truck driver Michael McLaughlin, who helped organize the event, speaks to the 70 people who attended the barbecue.

“I can’t stand by and do nothing,” Audrey Bath, a call center worker who came from Boise, Idaho, to join the celebrations, told the *Idaho Statesman*. “I don’t believe that justice has been served.” Bath said she has participated in 10 rallies demanding the deputies be charged over the past year and distributed more than 1,200 “Justice for Jack” red wristbands across the United States.

More incriminating information about the deputies’ killing of Yantis keeps coming out. Yantis had been called by the police to put a bull he owned out of its misery after it had been struck by a car. Witnesses say one of the sheriffs spun Yantis around and started firing. The *Statesman* reported Sept. 29 that “investigators found no definitive evidence that Yantis fired his rifle,” despite claims by the two cops that Yantis had shot at them.

— EDWIN FRUIT

Fight over voting rights goes down to wire in 2016

Continued from front page
posed changes to voting laws in states with a history of suppressing the right to vote. These included states across the South, and in Arizona and sections of New York, Michigan and California. Since its enactment, the federal law had blocked over 3,000 such discriminatory voting rule changes.

Since the court ruling, many of these states have moved to pass new impediments in the name of stopping non-existent “voting fraud.”

Over the past few months, federal courts have overturned some of these restrictive voting laws, including in Texas, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

In September a federal court ruled against Ohio’s purging of voter rolls by removing people who had not recently cast a ballot. This involved some 144,000 voters since the 2012 presidential election. In New York, state authorities opened an investigation into how the New York City Board of Elections struck 126,000 registered voters in Brooklyn off the rolls. The board claimed it was just “routine maintenance.”

The same month a U.S. Court of Appeals blocked efforts by officials in Alabama, Georgia and Kansas to require voters to furnish proof of citizenship to register. Seven percent of voters don’t have access to their birth certificate and can’t prove they’re U.S. citizens, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law.

What’s involved is a problem over “basic rights,” Rev. Kenneth Dukes, NAACP president in Shelby County, Alabama, told the *Militant* in an Oct. 7 phone interview. Places where you can register to vote “are only open certain days for so many hours,” he said. “In

some areas the closest registrar is 45 minutes away, making it very difficult for those from impoverished areas to get there.”

“All citizens of this country have the right to vote,” Dukes said. “Everyone should be automatically registered to vote once in contact with any government program or services.”

States slash polling sites

Slashing the number of polling places forces voters to travel farther and stand in long lines. During the March primary in Arizona’s Maricopa County, for example, where more than 30 percent of residents are Hispanic, voters had to wait five hours to vote.

Many get discouraged, or simply aren’t physically capable of standing so long, and just go home.

Nine states — Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii, Mississippi, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah and Washington — have cut the number of days people can register to vote.

The Supreme Court’s decision to eviscerate the Voting Rights Act means the number of federal monitors placed inside polling places this November watching for civil rights violations will be slashed. In the 2012 presidential election observers were sent to 23 states. This year the Justice Department says they’ll be sent to fewer than five.

Some 6.1 million people are disenfranchised because of a felony conviction, a new Sentencing Project report shows, a figure almost double that from 20 years ago. This reflects the workings of the U.S. criminal “justice” system in recent decades — a leap in arrests, virtually compulsory plea bargaining, and longer sentences. About 2.5 percent of those aged 18 and over — 1 of every 40

adults — is barred from voting.

For African-Americans the rate is much higher, with one out of 13 disenfranchised. In some states — Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia — more than 20 percent of African-Americans are excluded from voting.

Only two states, Maine and Vermont, allow prisoners to vote. Over 75 percent of those disbarred nationwide for felony convictions are either on probation, parole or have completed their sentences.

In Alabama, a state law bars more than 250,000 adults from voting for any felony conviction deemed to show “moral turpitude.” But this phrase “is not formally defined in law,” reports the *New York Times*. “Instead, it leaves the decision of who gets to vote, essentially, up to the local registrar.”

A suit has been filed in federal court against this law. Among those affected, the *Times* notes, is Constance Todd, 70, who had been voting for years but was recently barred for the “moral turpitude” she displayed writing some bad checks 20 years ago.

Foot dragging by immigration officials also bars many seeking U.S. citizenship from being able to vote. Almost 940,000 immigrants applied to become citizens last year, but as of June 30 more than half a million of them have not even had their applications examined.

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—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA Oakland

Hurricane Devastation in Haiti: A Social, Not a ‘Natural’ Disaster; Immediate U.S. Aid to Haiti with No Strings Attached!
Speaker: Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

CANADA Calgary

Solidarity With Working People of Syria. Canadian Troops Out of the Middle East.
Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. Dragon City Mall, 328 Centre St., SE, Unit 246. Tel.: (403) 457-9044.

Montreal

U.S. Election Campaign: Socialist Workers Party — The Working-Class Alternative to Capitalist Lesser-Evil Politics. Speaker: Philippe Tessier, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 7107 St. Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

UNITED KINGDOM London

Politics and the Class Struggle in Colombia. Speaker: Hugh Robertson, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Donation: £3. 83 Kingsland High St. E8 2PB. Tel.: (020) 3583-3553.

—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 workers locked out by Honeywell, United Gas Workers Union members fighting concession demands by Dominion Gas 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



Militant/Carl Weinberg

United Auto Workers Local 9 members and supporters rally outside Honeywell aerospace plant in South Bend, Indiana, Oct. 5. Company locked out workers here and in Green Island, New York, May 9 after they voted down concession contract proposal.

Locked-out Indiana Honeywell workers rally, gain support

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Members of United Auto Workers Local 9, locked out by Honeywell since May 9, rallied at the gate of the company's aerospace plant here Oct. 5. They were joined by contingents of Teamsters, union teachers, and Steelworkers from Danville, Illinois, and from the ArcelorMittal steel mill in East Chicago.

"It's great to have all of the union and community support here," Bryan Rodgers, Local 9 recording secretary, told the crowd of 200. "We're continuing to explain this is a not a strike, it's a lockout. Instead of trying to work it out, they just locked us out."

In 1936 this plant, then owned by Bendix, was the site of the first sit-down strike in the United States, several speakers said.

The plant makes airplane brakes and wheels for Boeing, Airbus and other aerospace giants. Honeywell also locked out 41 UAW Local 1508 members at its Green Island, New York, brake pad plant.

"We're here because an injury to one is an injury to all," UAW Local 5 President Joe Taylor told the rally. "This community has your back." Local 5 members have helped walk the picket lines and have donated funds and goods to the food pantry.

Some \$70,000 has been raised from collections in locals throughout Indiana and Ohio, UAW Region 2-B Director Ken Lortz told the rally.

A number of local and state politicians, including the mayor of South Bend, addressed the rally. So did Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, who has walked the picket lines before.

"The fight at Honeywell is part of a bigger picture," Fein said. "The capitalist system is in crisis all over the world, and the boss class tries to make workers pay for it. The capi-

talists have the economy and the government in their hands, but our strength comes from our numbers and solidarity."

—Ilona Gersh

Alstom workers mobilize against closing train factory in France

SAINT-OUEN, France — Nearly 600 workers rallied outside the headquarters of Alstom Transport train division in this suburb of Paris Sept. 26. Most of the 480 workers from Alstom's Belfort plant, near the Swiss border, came to protest the company's recent announcement that it would close the plant, which makes the high-speed TGV train, and transfer 400 workers to its factory in Reichshoffen, 125 miles away. Workers on strike that day at other Alstom plants

in France joined the rally.

The action, organized by four unions representing the plant's workers, took place while union representatives met with management.

"They think they can control us by pressuring and scaring us because many of us have mortgages on our homes," Laurent, a Belfort worker who is not a member of any of the unions, told the *Militant*. "These loans hold us back. But we need to continue

to mobilize."

During the rally workers passing by expressed their solidarity. Philippe Martinez, general secretary of the CGT, the largest French union, participated in the action.

The French government, which owns 20 percent of Alstom, announced Oct. 4 it would order 15 trains to forestall the closure of the 137-year-old plant.

—Claude Bleton

Bosses, politicians blame workers for NY derailments



Reuters/Eduardo Munoz

NEW YORK — Long Island Rail Road bosses and capitalist politicians wasted no time blaming workers for an Oct. 8 derailment near New Hyde Park, New York, that injured 33 people, including seven rail workers.

"It looks like it will be human error," claimed Chuck Schumer, senator from New York, echoing company officials. "Probably someone who left the switch in the wrong position."

On Sept. 29, a New Jersey Transit train crashed in the Hoboken station, killing one person and injuring more than 100.

The incidents have a common feature — train management has reduced the operating crew to a single person on the locomotive and now they blame that one crew member.

In an unstated concession to rail unionists' demands for a two-person crew on all engines, NJ Transit management announced Oct. 5 that it would now require a second crew member to join the engineer in the train cab when the train approaches a station. The only problem is this requires a conductor to do two jobs at the same time.

"The bosses are to blame for unsafe conditions on the railroads," Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers Party candidate and opponent of Schumer for U.S. Senate and a freight rail conductor, told the *Militant* Oct. 12. "They impose speed-up, crew cuts and long hours, and their neglect of maintenance of trains and tracks put passengers and rail workers in danger every day. The SWP demands two-person crews on the engine and union control of safety."

—MAGGIE TROWE

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 25, 1991

OTTUMWA, Iowa — Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 230 marched to the Excel Corporation's plant gate here before daybreak October 10, demanding the company reverse the suspension of large numbers of workers and sign a new contract with the union.

Management at the packinghouse suspended the unionists after they refused to work in unsafe conditions.

Workers rejected Excel's contract proposal October 6 by a vote of 767 to 19. Local 230's membership voted 770 to 8 to strike the plant, but the local's leadership convinced them to work day by day without a contract while an attempt was made to negotiate improvements.

The issue most workers find hardest to swallow is the company proposal to go from a Monday through Friday schedule to one of Tuesday through Saturday.



October 24, 1966

Nov. 4 has been set as the date for review of the constitutional issues involved in the "Bloomington Case" — the case of the three Indiana University students who were indicted under a state anti-communist act in 1963 for their membership in the Young Socialist Alliance.

The review involves a request by the three defendants for a federal injunction to stop proceedings. They point out that the indictments against them are a direct violation of the rights of free speech and free assembly and that the proceedings have interfered with their abilities to conduct normal lives. Unusual harassment, financial difficulties, including great problems in finding jobs, all flow from the witchhunt effort.

Importantly, this is not denied by the local Indiana prosecution itself, which admits to the unusually severe repercussions of the indictments.



October 25, 1941

Segregation and maltreatment of Negro soldiers in the United States Army were sharply condemned by the regional conference of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (CIO), meeting in Gary, Indiana, October 5.

The conference of 550 delegates, representing 53 SWOC locals in the Chicago area, unanimously passed a resolution demanding that Roosevelt take immediate action to end the vicious army Jim Crow system. The resolution also called on all CIO unions to organize action against discriminatory treatment of the Negroes in the army.

This action is an example of the progressive efforts of the CIO unions, in contrast with the AFL, to fight for the rights of the Negro workers, both in industry and the army. There would be no Jim Crowism in military training if that training were under the control of the trade unions.

India, Pakistan rulers clash as protests shake Kashmir

BY MARK THOMPSON

Cross-border fire between the armies of India and Pakistan erupted in late September in the territory of Kashmir, which the two regimes have partitioned since 1947. The sharpening conflict between the nuclear-armed powers takes place amid a three-month wave of strikes and protests by workers and students in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

The daily exchange of gunfire and shelling flared following an Indian army announcement that it had crossed into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir Sept. 29 in a “surgical strike” on Pakistan-backed Kashmiri separatist fighters there. Islamabad denied the raid had happened, saying instead its troops had been shelled. New Delhi said it was responding to a Sept. 18 attack on an Indian army base in Kashmir in which 19 soldiers were killed.

Protests exploded in Kashmir July 8 when Indian forces killed 22-year-old Burhan Wani, a leader of Hizbul Mujahideen, a group opposing Indian rule. Some 50,000 turned out for his funeral. Actions have continued over the following months, shutting schools, offices, markets and transport.

New Delhi responded by imposing

a curfew, cutting phone and internet services, silencing newspapers and attacking demonstrators. Almost 100 Kashmiris have been killed and more than 12,000 injured, many of them wounded or blinded by birdshot pellets. Thousands have been arrested, but the actions continue. High school students boycotted exams and demonstrated Oct. 6, many covering one eye to show solidarity with those blinded in the protests.

There are some 600,000 Indian soldiers and paramilitary cops in the territory of nearly 14 million, with a decades-long record of repression and abuse.

The occupation and division of Kashmir has its origin in the partition of India in 1947 by the departing British colonial power. In face of a rising, united working-class struggle against colonial rule, London moved to cede nominal independence. It maneuvered with bourgeois and landlord forces to divide the colony into a majority-Muslim Pakistan and a majority-Hindu India. The goal was to divide working people and their struggles, thwart steps towards a unified nation state, and help maintain the influence of the British capitalist rulers.

Whole regions, such as Bengal and Punjab, were split in two as new borders



Kashmir Reader/Sakib Makhdoomi

Students at Government Medical College in Srinagar, Kashmir, protest Sept. 29 against Indian government's repression of strikes and protests that have swept region for last two months.

were drawn. Some 15 million people were uprooted and over 1 million killed as the rival ruling-class factions incited religious hostility to grab more territory.

In the state of Kashmir the local monarch initially declined to join either Pakistan or India. The new government in Pakistan invaded and its Indian counterpart retaliated. A United Nations-brokered cease-fire in 1948 placed two-thirds of Kashmir under Indian rule and the remainder under Pakistan. It also called for a referendum on self-determination, but this was never carried out.

Since a second war in 1965, the cease-

fire line in Kashmir has been an ongoing source of military tension between the two regimes, with both continuing to lay claim to the whole territory.

Since the late 1980s there has been broad, ongoing opposition among the population of Indian-occupied Kashmir to rule by New Delhi and repression by its army and cops.

Growth of China

The latest border clash between the rulers of India and Pakistan takes place as the rival powers adjust to the growing economic and political weight of China in the region.

For decades Washington armed and backed Islamabad, but has recently sought closer ties with New Delhi in face of rising competition from Beijing. The U.S. and Indian governments signed a military logistics agreement Aug. 29. While trade between China and India has mushroomed in recent years, the balance favors China four to one.

Beijing, a longtime ally of Islamabad, is investing \$46 billion to build roads, railways and pipelines linking China to a port in the Pakistani city of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea. The transport corridor, which will greatly increase China's reach to its west, passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and concludes in the province of Balochistan.

The Indian government is sponsoring a rival project to expand the port of Chabahar, Iran, and create an alternative sea-land route connecting India, Iran and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan.

In recent statements, widely viewed as a warning to Beijing, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned Pakistan for “committing atrocities” to suppress independence demands in Balochistan. Pro-independence groups there oppose the transport corridor and port project.

Colombia ‘no’ vote shows discontent with gov’t, FARC

Continued from front page
sued similar appeals.

Former President Álvaro Uribe, who led the “vote no” campaign, met with President Juan Manuel Santos Oct. 5 to propose “adjustments” to the agreement. A joint statement by government and FARC representatives two days later said they were holding talks to “promptly find a solution.” They said an Aug. 29 cease-fire would continue.

Some 220,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed over five decades in fighting by soldiers, cops and government-backed paramilitary groups with the FARC and other guerrilla groups. Another 92,000 disappeared, and 7 million have been displaced, mainly peasants who fled the countryside to escape bombings, land mines, kidnappings and murders by both sides.

“In the zones most affected by the war, some people resent what the FARC has done, but the majority say forgive and start over,” César Pachón told the *Militant* Oct. 10 from Boyacá. Pachón is a leader of Potato Growers Dignity and other peasant organizations.

The 297-page peace accord was signed by Santos and FARC leader Rodrigo Londoño, also known as Timochenko, at a televised ceremony in Cartagena Sept. 26. Those attending included 12 Latin American heads of state and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Timochenko asked for “forgiveness for all the pain that we have caused.”

The agreement followed four years of negotiations hosted in Cuba, whose revolutionary government was instrumental in promoting an end to the conflict. The FARC agreed to surrender its weapons to United Nations monitors and reconstitute itself as a political party. It also agreed to collaborate to end the production and trafficking of drug crops, which it had taxed in areas it controlled.

The opposition campaign led by Uribe attacked a guarantee for the new party of 10 unelected seats in the Congress for two legislative terms. It also condemned the amnesty granted to FARC leaders charged with major crimes, who would be eligible for reduced terms of community work, and financial benefits granted to FARC members.

In the plebiscite, which asked, “Do you support the final agreement to end the conflict and construct a stable and enduring peace?” 50.2 percent voted no and 49.8 percent yes. It had been forecast to pass by a two-to-one margin. Only 37 percent of voters turned out.

Discontent among workers, peasants

“There’s a lot of discontent with President Santos and Uribe took advantage of that,” noted Pachón, pointing to attacks by police and paramilitary groups on recent strikes. “The Santos government held negotiations with the guerrillas over the question of land in the countryside” without involving the peasants. “He and Uribe have the same policies,” he added.

“The situation for working people is getting worse,” said Causada. “Santos is raising the sales tax and imposing anti-worker labor laws. For every worker directly employed, there are now nine contract workers.”

Formed in 1964, the FARC became the largest of several guerrilla groups that grew out of peasant struggles for land and resistance to repression. It was linked to the Communist Party of Colombia, which looked to the Stalinist regime in Moscow. Its methods included kidnapping for ransom.

The FARC is estimated to have numbered 20,000 in 2002 when Uribe became president and launched a major military offensive, backed by Washington. Today it is said to number 7,000. Santos, who was Uribe’s defense min-

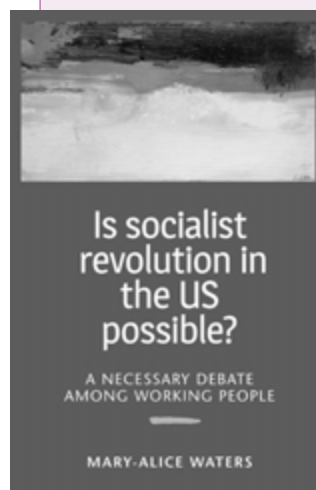
ister, opened negotiations when he became president in 2010.

The FARC’s course was the opposite of the movement led by Fidel Castro in Cuba, who organized working people there to overthrow the Fulgenio Batista dictatorship on Jan. 1, 1959. Those who launched the revolutionary struggle in 1953 “had a clear idea of our objectives, and this remained constant,” wrote Castro in the 2008 book *La paz en Colombia* (Peace in Colombia). But the FARC “never planned to conquer power through the armed struggle,” he said.

Castro also criticized the FARC’s methods. “Civilians should have never been kidnapped, nor should the soldiers have been kept as prisoners in jungle conditions,” he said. “These were objectively cruel actions. No revolutionary aim could justify them.”

In Cuba the Rebel Army led by Castro began organizing working people to carry out land reform, literacy campaigns and other revolutionary measures in areas under rebel control. The FARC left capitalist economic and social relations intact in the areas they controlled.

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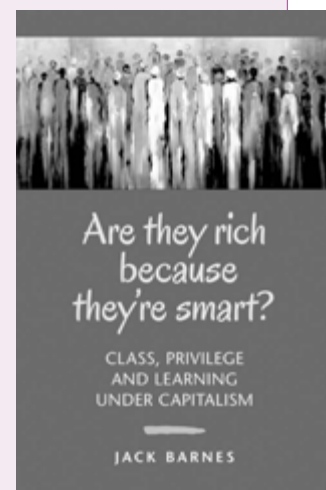


“What lies ahead are struggles that transform us as we fight to transform the twisted social relations of the dog-eat-dog world of capitalism — relations that corrode human solidarity and coarsen us all.”

— Mary-Alice Waters

\$7 for each book, \$10 for book and ‘Militant’ subscription

See page 8 to contact the Socialist Workers Party or Communist League in your area.



Cuba's response to hurricane

Continued from front page
homes were damaged in that town of 60,000.

The Cuban leadership started organizing well before the hurricane made landfall.

On Oct. 2, President Raúl Castro began a several-day tour of Guantánamo. He participated in a meeting of the Provincial Civil Defense Council, which oversees disaster preparedness, "focused on protecting the population and minimizing economic losses." Castro and the council set up camp in nearby Santiago.

According to *Juventud Rebelde*, the Civil Defense, working together with local government and army personnel, evacuated more than 1 million residents. Some 372,885 people were placed in shelters and another 944,886 moved in with family, friends and neighbors.

Reconstruction begins immediately

Brigades of electrical workers and soldiers armed with buzz saws were sent to the region before the hurricane hit — anticipating that roads and bridges would be washed out — to make sure repairs could begin immediately.

"We're here to help the recovery," utility worker Ismael Infante, who came from neighboring Tunas province before the storm, told EFE news service.

Repair and recovery work began as soon as the winds died down. It looked like a sea of olive green, wrote a *Juventud Rebelde* reporter arriving in Baracoa Oct. 8 by helicopter. He referred to the hundreds of soldiers mixed in with town residents who were working to clean up roads and get reconstruction going.

"The most important thing is that there was not a single death," Castro told a crowd of hundreds when he toured Baracoa that day.

The government announced Oct. 8 that supplies to rebuild homes would be sold at half price and that low- or no-interest, long-term loans were available to anyone who needed them. Those most in need will be given the materials free of charge.

Mass organizations, including Committees for the Defense of the Revolution and the Union of Young Communists are organizing volunteers such as carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers and anyone who wants to travel to the most affected areas to work side by side with residents to rebuild their homes.

"It won't be quick, but we are going to recover," Noel Mosqueda, president of the Municipal Defense Council in Maisí, told *Juventud Rebelde*.

In U.S., Haiti 'You're on your own'

Unlike Cuba, the governments in both Haiti and the United States took the approach of "every man for himself."

As the storm approached Florida's east coast Oct. 6, Gov. Rick Scott announced, "You need to leave. Evacuate, evacuate, evacuate." The governors of South Carolina and North Carolina made similar statements.

While some buses were organized to evacuate people, most were left to fend for themselves. *USA Today* reported Oct. 6 that those who tried to flee in Florida "faced clogged roads, dwindling fuel supplies and sold-out hotel rooms." Despite the clogged roads and gas shortages, Mayor Eddie DeLoach in Savannah, Georgia, warned anyone

who decided to ride out the storm, "Do not expect us to be there to help you."

The latest destruction in Haiti adds to the devastation from the 2010 earthquake and subsequent cholera epidemic that left more than 300,000 dead.

The government took almost no measures to evacuate or get people to shelters before the storm. According to the aid group Mercy Corps, more than 80 percent of the crops that feed 20,000 families were destroyed in the hard-hit southern part of the island.

Farmers near St. Louis-du-Sud told Reuters that the area's wooden boats, used to catch fish and shrimp, were destroyed. Little aid is arriving from around the world. Along with looming food shortages from the destruction of crops, livestock and farm and fishing implements — no small matter in Haiti, one of the poorest nations in the world — is the danger of a new rise in cholera.

Reuters reports that at the Port-au-Piment hospital alone, the number of cholera cases jumped from 13 before the hurricane to nearly 60 on Oct. 9. "We have been abandoned by a government that never thinks of us," said Marie-

Continued from front page

and distorted the island's economy to maximize profits for its bankers and bosses, leaving Puerto Rico's economy in shambles and its colonial government \$70 billion in debt.

A so-called fiscal control board — known by Puerto Ricans as the "junta" — has been appointed by Obama and given broad powers to guarantee capitalist bondholders will receive repayment for the overwhelming bulk of the debt. The seven bankers, lawyers and well-paid consultants can impose layoffs, reduce the minimum wage as low as \$4.25 an hour, and slash social spending, pensions and other benefits.

"Obama, listen to me, Oscar López must be free!" chanted members of the New York group 35 Women for Oscar in front of the White House. The women have held lively monthly protests to win support for López. Their Puerto Rican counterpart, Women on the Bridge, was part of the delegation of more than 100 people who came from the U.S. colony.

"Puerto Rico is being held down by the junta," Frances Gonzalez, 32, a student at Boricua College in the Bronx, told the *Militant*. "Things are getting worse over there, but it's bad in the U.S. as well. We need jobs to live. I send money to my family every month and take supplies every time I visit."

"The junta won't solve anything," said Evelyn Ruiz, 62, a retired member of the Communications Workers of America at Verizon in New York. "It takes money from the workers to pay the bondholders. Capitalism is a predatory system."

"There are almost no jobs for youth on the island," said Alejandro Gonzalez, 25, a member of the theatrical group Jóvenes del 98.

"Puerto Rico is living in a moment when the fact that it is a colony is naked



UN Photo/Logan Abassi

Left, Estudios Revolución

Above, residents of Les Cayes, Haiti, Oct. 6. Haitian government, like U.S. gov't, left people on their own as hurricane approached. More than 1,000 died. Left, Raúl Castro being greeted in storm-ravaged town of Maisí, Cuba, Oct. 10. Revolutionary leadership organized evacuation of a million people before storm's landfall, and led immediate work to rebuild. Not one person died.



Ange Henry in the village of Chevalier.

On Oct. 8, 38 doctors, nurses and specialists in control of epidemics flew from Cuba to Haiti to strengthen the efforts of 648 Cuban internationalist medical volunteers already stationed there. Cuban volunteers played a key role in controlling the cholera epidemic after the 2010 quake.

provinces affected by the hurricane, as an example that we share what we have," said Alexis Diaz Ortega, head of the brigade.

"Ever since we were little we wanted to be like Che [Guevara]," Dr. Nevis González told Prensa Latina. "In this mission we will be a worthy example of that," by saving thousands of lives.

Protest in DC demands: 'Free Oscar López now!'

and exposed," Luis Rosa, who spent 19 years in U.S. prisons for his actions supporting independence, told the *Militant*. "The U.S. government is wringing profits out of the island and securing further privatizations of industries. Within this crisis we have our best opportunity to explain the urgent fight to free Oscar."

The haves and the have-nots

"The fight for Oscar López strikes a chord," said Hemmer Pascal, a Marine veteran and student at Long Island University. He came with members of Mothers on the Move, a neighborhood organization in South Bronx. "It's the division between the haves and the have-nots. There is a commonality among those who are fighting and it's in our interest to unite."

"My brother is a man totally committed to the independence of Puerto Rico," López's brother José, who lives in Chicago, told the crowd. "But he has also become an emblem of Puerto Rican unity. For that reason we have the support of every Puerto Rican political current."

Dorian Ortega, 29, who works at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Chicago, agreed. "The fight to free Oscar López is gaining support. It brings together those for statehood and those for independence," he said. "We all agree, 35 years is too long!"

Ingrid Vila Biaggi, president of the Puerto-Rico based Coalition for the Freedom of Oscar López, which initiated the action, spoke. The National Boricua Human Rights Network was the main group organizing participation from more than 11 cities in the U.S.

María de Lourdes Santiago, Puerto Rican Independence Party candidate for governor of Puerto Rico, and Carmen Yulín Cruz, Popular Democratic Party mayor of San Juan, both spoke.

Others addressing the crowd included Democratic Party political figures, including Illinois Congressman Luis Gutiérrez, New York City Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito and New York State Assemblyman José Rivera.

A delegation of Puerto Rican unionists came, including José Torres, president of the Brotherhood of Non-Academic Employees of the University of Puerto Rico, and Eric Sevilla, education director of the Central Workers Federation (FCT), which is affiliated with the United Food and Commercial Workers.

"As Puerto Rican workers we ask for solidarity from all U.S. and Latin American workers because we face the same oppression," Torres told the *Militant*, "but it's double in Puerto Rico because we're a U.S. colony."

Well-known Puerto Rican singers performed, including Roy Brown, Danny Rivera and Tito Auger, and actress Johanna Rosaly emceed.

Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy and Jacob Perasso, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, both of whom just returned from a nine-day fact-finding and solidarity trip to the island, joined the event.

"We intend to use what we learned talking to workers, youth and political activities of all stripes in Puerto Rico to campaign for freedom for Oscar López and to win solidarity for an end to U.S. colonial rule," Kennedy told fellow participants in the action.

SWP members carried signs saying, "No to the Junta, No to the debt," "U.S. and Puerto Rican workers fight together," "Independence is not granted, it's taken," and others.

Arlene Rubinstein contributed to this article.

Overthrow of Radical Reconstruction secured capitalist rule

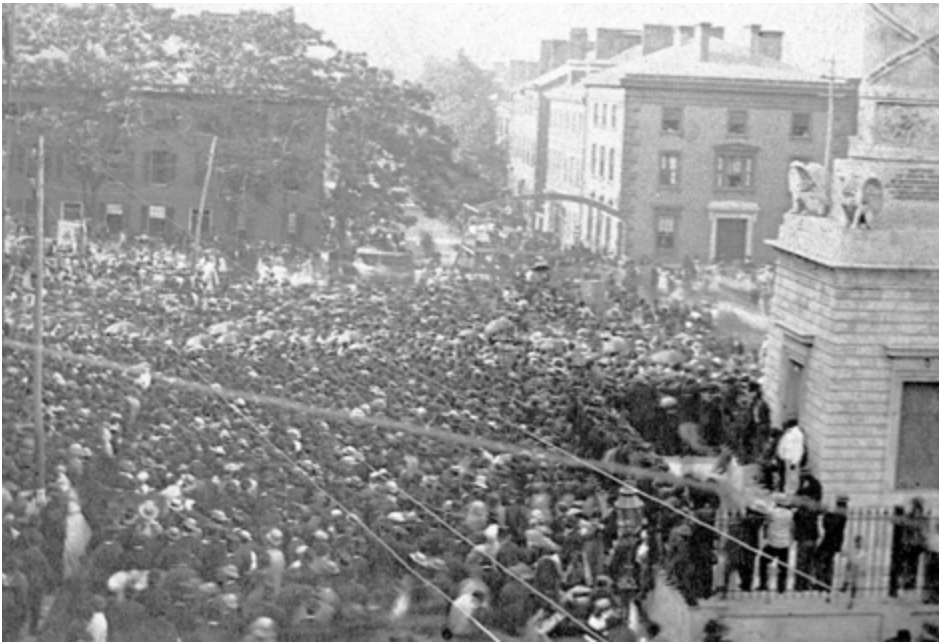
The excerpt below is from “Two Lessons of Reconstruction,” a chapter in America’s Revolutionary Heritage, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for October. In it George Novack discusses the shifting class alliances in the Civil War — the Second American Revolution — which defeated the slavocracy in the South, and the ensuing counter-revolution against Radical Reconstruction that was necessary to consolidate capitalist rule in the United States. Karl Marx wrote in 1877 that the resistance of Blacks to the overthrow of Reconstruction and of western farmers to being driven off the land, along with national strikes of rail workers pointed to the bloc of class forces that will make a proletarian revolution in the U.S. Copyright © 1971 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY GEORGE NOVACK

Following Lee’s surrender to Grant early in 1865, it was easily possible to proceed to a thoroughgoing renovation of the South along democratic lines. The former slaveholding potentates had been militarily beaten, economically and politically dispossessed, and were so disgraced and demoralized they could offer no serious political or physical resistance.

At that juncture there were only two real powers in the South. First and



The Maryland Historical Society

Six-mile-long march by workers in Baltimore in 1870 celebrates passage of 15th Amendment to U.S. Constitution guaranteeing right of Black men to vote. Gains of victory by North in Civil War, bringing down slavery, followed a decade later by spread of Ku Klux Klan terror and defeat of Radical Reconstruction, brought consolidation of capitalist class rule in U.S.

foremost was the federal government headed by the Republican Party and controlled by the industrial capitalists. They were the conquerors and the directors of the occupying forces. They had not only the military power but, what was more important, the confidence and allegiance of the progressive forces throughout the country.

The other power was the might of the aroused masses headed by the four million ex-slaves with their allies among the small farmers and poor whites. If these two powers had marched along together down freedom’s road, they would have constituted an invincible combination.

But something quite different resulted. What started out, at the close of the Civil War, as an alliance between the northern men of means and the black and white plebeians of the South against the landed aristocracy terminated in 1876 with a union between the capitalist magnates and the planters against the southern masses and their Negro vanguard.

The eleven years of Reconstruction fall into three main stages: (1) the years 1865–66, when the revolution in the South was arrested by the conservative northern bourgeoisie, marked time, and missed its most favorable opportunities; (2) the years of revolutionary resurgence from 1867 to the early 1870s, when the Radical Republicans gained full command of the situation at Washington and joined with the Negro masses and their white

allies to institute through armed force the first and only democratic regime in the South; (3) the years of revolutionary recession ending with 1876, when northern capitalism definitively broke with the southern masses, threw its decisive weight against their struggles, and finally concluded a pact with the planters which sealed the fate of the revolution and reestablished the white supremacists in the South.

The various elements in the antislavery coalition were animated by different and at times conflicting interests and purposes. The main driving force of the revolutionary movement emanated from the four million former slaves in the South. They wanted relief from age-old oppression and insufferable exploitation. They desired land, jobs, a decent living, civil rights and political power as represented by the vote, legal and racial equality, educational and cultural opportunities. These demands were eloquently voiced during the canvass for the Constitutional Convention of 1867 by a Negro voter at Selma, Alabama, who held up a red (Radical) ticket and shouted: “Forty acres of land! A mule! Freedom! Votes! Equal of white man!”

These measures necessitated turning the entire structure of the old South upside down. The confiscation of the land owned by the big proprietors, its partition and distribution among the landless laborers, meant an agrarian revolution. The ballot and freedom of

organization meant the transference of political power into Negro hands, especially in states where they were the majority. Ex-slaves on an equal footing with their former owners and taskmasters meant undermining the pyramid of class rule and privilege.

The northern rulers had different aims, now that they had been lifted to the top by the antislavery movement. The triumphant capitalists wanted to perpetuate their grip upon the national government, increase their control over industry and agriculture, and grab the natural resources. In order to promote this program their political representatives had to maneuver with the other forces in the country. On the right, they had to prevent the revival of the political influence of the southern planters and their northern accomplice, the Democratic Party. On the left, they had to curb the demands of the lower classes, North or South. The Republican bourgeoisie was willing to use any of these other classes as tools in the furtherance of its own aims, but was determined to keep them all in a subordinate position.

Most of the Republican leaders had been reluctant to emancipate the slaves; during the Civil War they had tried to keep Negroes in the background and even out of the Union army. Now that the menace of the Confederacy had been eliminated, the Republican bourgeoisie sought to hold the Negroes on a leash, lest they overstep the bounds of bourgeois proprieties. ...

While the Republicans debated how much — or how little — liberty they could safely extend to them, the Negroes voiced demands, not only for themselves but for the whole people, for free public education, correction of criminal codes, and many other reforms which far outstripped the ideas and intentions of the northern overlords. Throughout the South, Negroes took the lead in establishing and extending the power of the masses and instituting democratic forms of administration.

As they became more independent and formidable, determined to carry democratization to its limits, they not only terrified the planters but alienated their northern patrons. Just as the northern capitalists held down the industrial workers and small producers in the North and West, so they strove to keep in their place the black agricultural toilers of the South.

October

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8 The Militant October 24, 2016

—SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT—

Cuba is example for workers worldwide

Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, issued the following statement Oct. 12.

The devastation facing millions of working people in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, from Haiti to North Carolina, is a social catastrophe caused by the workings of the capitalist system, not a “natural disaster.” The response of the U.S. ruling families and their government to the storm and the death and destruction it wrought exposed once again the brutal “values” their profit-driven system is based on.

The revolutionary government and working people of Cuba provided an opposite example — how the working class in power can organize socially, mobilizing their full human and material resources, and not leaving anyone to fend for themselves.

“Flee” was the advice given to millions in the storm’s path by Florida Gov. Rick Scott. “Do not expect us to be there to help you,” the mayor of Savannah, Georgia, told residents who stayed. Authorities put the onus on workers to figure their own way out of the storm’s path, doing little or nothing to *organize* an evacuation to safety. Workers in eastern North Carolina, where floodwaters submerged working-class communities well inland, are left in the lurch as well.

My campaign calls for emergency government-funded housing and aid, and for a crash public works program to put people to work at union wages re-

building homes, schools, medical facilities and infrastructure.

The toll on workers and farmers is particularly heavy in Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world. This proud land of the first successful slave revolt in the modern era has been subjected to centuries of semicolonial domination and imperialist plunder.

More than 1,000 were killed in the storm itself, as the government and the imperialist rulers responsible for desperate conditions there took practically no measures to evacuate the island’s southwestern peninsula where the storm made landfall. The destruction of crops, livestock and fishing boats pose the prospect of food shortages, and cholera is on the rise again. The Socialist Workers Party demands Washington send massive, unconditional reconstruction aid to Haiti, to Cuba and other Caribbean nations affected by the hurricane.

Though Hurricane Matthew hit eastern Cuba with similar force as in Haiti, causing extensive damage to buildings and crops, *not a single life was lost*. The entire population, led by President Raúl Castro, was mobilized to face the danger — evacuating more than a million people, making sure communication was organized in areas that might be hard to reach after the storm, and advancing preparations to immediately begin restoring power and rebuilding. And in the midst of their own recovery efforts, the Cuban people stepped up aid to their brothers and sisters in Haiti — where over 600 Cuban medical and other internationalist volunteers are stationed — and offered a hand of solidarity to anyone else who needs it.

Working people in the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico, while they weren’t in the path of this storm, face a growing social crisis caused by the same profit-driven dog-eat-dog capitalist values under U.S. colonial rule. I just completed a solidarity fact-finding trip to meet with workers and youth there to discuss our common battle against the rulers in Washington.

My campaign supports protests against the U.S.-imposed fiscal junta; demands freedom for Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López, held for 35 years in U.S. prisons; and champions struggles by Puerto Rican workers and youth to defend jobs, wages, health care, education and living standards.

Workers need our own party to advance these struggles, to fight to end the rule of the capitalist exploiters and to organize society based on solidarity as our brothers and sisters in Cuba have done. The Socialist Workers Party is that kind of internationalist, working-class party — join us!

Mosul attack plans

Continued from front page

intervene to impose anything resembling stability for their interests in Syria. While they accuse Moscow and Damascus of “war crimes,” the only road forward they see is to continue to seek accommodation and a truce with the Russian government.

With its latest deployment of 600 soldiers, Washington now has some 6,000 troops on the ground in Iraq, the highest number in years.

Baghdad and Ankara clashed sharply over the Mosul offensive. “We will play a role in the Mosul liberation operation and no one can prevent us,” said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Oct. 1. Ankara has some 2,000 troops in northern Iraq.

“We have asked the Turkish side more than once not to intervene in Iraqi matters,” Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said Oct. 5, saying he feared a regional war. A spokesperson for the Shiite Popular Mobilization Force militias, which will fight with the Iraqi Army in Mosul, threatened to attack Turkish troops if they did not withdraw from Iraq.

“No one has the right to object to Turkey’s presence in Iraq when the country is fragmented,” stated Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus Oct. 5. He added that Turkish troops were in Iraq at the invitation of the Kurdish government, training Kurdish peshmerga and Sunni militias to fight Islamic State.

An Oct. 5 article by the Rudaw news agency pointed out that the planned offensive will bring the Shiite militias into Nineveh province, of which Mosul is the capital, and potentially into conflict with the Kurds.

The peshmerga have expanded the region under Kurdish control by some 40 percent in the fight against Islamic State since 2014. This includes areas they say were traditionally Kurdish but were subject to decades of “Arabization” under the regime of Saddam Hussein.

The Shia regime in Baghdad today is known for its oppressive actions against the country’s minority Sunni population. This is an explosive factor affecting the maneuvering by all the contending allies preparing for what will emerge from the defeat of IS in Mosul.

The Kurdistan Regional Government says peshmerga fighters will not remain in Mosul, where the population is majority Sunni Arab. But KRG President Masoud Barzani has called for Kurds in the region to be allowed to vote on whether to join Iraqi Kurdistan.

There is no agreement on who will govern Mosul. Prime Minister Abadi intends to install Nofal Agoob, a Sunni politician and governor in Nineveh. But the province’s former governor, Atheel al-Nujaifi, heads a Sunni militia of some 5,000 that is trained by Ankara and works closely with the peshmerga.

Death, destruction in Aleppo

Russian and Syrian government warplanes are continuing their deadly bombardment of the opposition-controlled eastern half of Aleppo. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Oct. 10 it has documented the deaths of 442 civilians in Aleppo from Russian and Syrian aerial attacks since Sept. 19. They reported 51 civilians killed by rebel shelling in government-held western Aleppo during the same period.

Secretary of State John Kerry called for investigating “war crimes” by Moscow and Damascus Oct. 7, citing the bombing of hospitals in eastern Aleppo.

“War crimes also weigh on the shoulders of American officials,” responded Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova. On Oct. 11 Russian President Vladimir Putin canceled a planned visit to Paris because French officials had joined in accusing Moscow of war crimes.

Washington and Moscow are waging an increasingly bellicose war of words as they jockey for advantage in any new truce. Moscow is particularly concerned about U.S. military moves placing anti-missile batteries in eastern European countries that border Russia.

“There is a need to behave like partners and take each other’s interests into account,” Putin said Oct. 12.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and other politicians who call for more aggressive military action by Washington are floating the idea of imposing a “no fly zone” in Syria.

“To control all of the air space in Syria would require us to go to war against Syria and Russia,” Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a congressional hearing last month.

Moscow has recently strengthened its air defenses in Syria with batteries of S-300 missiles.

The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class

Statement of the Socialist Workers Party

In *New International* no. 14

“The social disaster that followed Hurricane Katrina in 2005 shined a spotlight worldwide on the ‘values’ of U.S. imperialism’s ruling families and the state that serves their class. Toilers in New Orleans continue to bear the brunt of capitalist greed and indifference to this day.”

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US-backed Saudi forces bomb Yemen

BY MARK THOMPSON

U.S.-backed Saudi coalition forces carried out a deadly airstrike on a packed funeral hall in the Yemeni capital Sanaa Oct. 8, killing more than 140 and injuring as many as 600. Political and military figures associated with the Houthi-led government in Yemen were in the hall, which was destroyed.

Riyadh expressed “deep regret” for the funeral strike, but refused to admit responsibility. However, Riyadh and Washington control the only air forces in the vicinity.

The next day, two missiles were fired at U.S. naval destroyer USS Mason in the Red Sea, falling short. Washington said they came from Houthi-held territory and threatened to retaliate. A Houthi official denied responsibility. Several missiles were also fired into Saudi Arabia that same day.

The Saudi-led military coalition stepped up airstrikes in Yemen Aug. 9 after peace talks stalled. The coalition includes the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, Sudan and other Middle Eastern countries. Washington backs the coalition with military intelligence, airborne fuel tankers and advanced munitions.

The civil war in Yemen began in January 2015 when Houthi militias, backed by Tehran, joined with forces loyal to deposed dictator Ali Abdullah Saleh. They occupied Sanaa and deposed the government of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. As they continued to

advance south, the Saudi-led coalition intervened to back Hadi’s forces. The predominantly Sunni Middle Eastern regimes in the coalition were also reacting to Washington’s nuclear deal and closer relations with Tehran. The Houthis are Shiite Muslims based in northern Yemen.

At least 9,000 people have been killed in the civil war, including 3,800 civilians killed by coalition airstrikes, according to United Nations estimates. More than 3 million people are displaced and much of the country of 27 million is on the brink of famine due to a blockade of its ports by the Saudi-led forces.

Since 2009 the CIA and Pentagon have carried out dozens of drone strikes and special operations raids against al-Qaeda forces in central and southern Yemen, often killing civilians and bystanders.

Since March 2015 Washington has authorized more than \$22 billion in weapons sales to Saudi Arabia. The U.K. government approved sale of billions of dollars worth of jets, bombs and missiles in recent years.

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