Liberal rage at Trump foreign policy reflects fear of workers

BY TERRY EVANS

With President Donald Trump’s trip to Europe and the Middle East, liberal politicians and press, cheered on by middle class radical groups, turned their incessant hysteria to the administration’s foreign policy. These forces greeted his participation in NATO’s May 25 summit with a chorus of disapproval. Their complaints focused on his criticisms of the financial contributions of Berlin and some other European capitalist regimes to the NATO military alliance, and on claims he is in league with Moscow.

Their true target isn’t Trump, but the millions of workers who voted for him. This wing of the ruling capitalist families cannot reconcile themselves to the millions of working people who elected Trump, seeking a way to counter the economic carnage they face from the increasing assaults of the bosses and their government today. These workers want to “drain the swamp” — to beat back the tens of thousands of highly-paid bureaucrats in Washington who seek to “regulate” as a “National Freedom Hero” and dis-invite López from being one of the marchers at the head of the June 11 parade.

There will also be a “Contingent for Oscar and Puerto Rico’s Decolonization” in the parade. Since his release López has been speaking at meetings Continued on page 7

Join Socialist Workers Party campaigning in Albany!

BY TERRY EVANS

— “It’s tens of millions of workers, not Donald Trump, who are the target of the relentless efforts of liberal politicians and newspaper editors, backed by the petty-bourgeois left, to invalidate the election,” said Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Albany mayor, at a Militant Labor Forum here May 26. She spoke alongside Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for New York mayor.

Trowe described the broad assaults working people have faced over years, altering our conditions of life in unprecedented ways. The active working class has shrunk, as the bosses’ economic crisis has pushed millions out of the workforce. For the first time in decades, life expectancy for workers is falling, birth rates are going down, and young workers are stuck living with their parents longer and longer. The only thing going up is deaths from an epidemic of opiates and suicides.

“The proper rationed sense work—Continued on page 9

Join Oscar López in fight against US colonial rule

Media slanders target Puerto Rico freedom struggle

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — The New York Daily News, the New York Post and other major news media are at the forefront of a campaign here slandering independence fighter Oscar López, who was released May 17 after nearly 36 years in U.S. prisons.

Charging that López is an “unrepentant terrorist,” the media bosses are demanding the National Puerto Rican Day Parade committee in New York reverse its decision to honor him Continued on page 4

UK rulers push ‘national unity’ to attack workers’ political rights

BY DAG TIRSEN

MANCHESTER, England — “I don’t think it is right to blame any religion or immigrants for the terrible bomb attacks on the arena,” said Kirsty Haig when Communist League members converged the day after Manchester United fans suffered the attack at the Manchester Arena May 22, which killed 22 people. She lives in the neighborhood where the Jamiu Quasim Zahidah Mosque is located, which itself was firebombed a few hours after the explosion.

Caroline Bellamy showed Haig the damage. The propertied rulers sense working people’s rage Continued on page 4
Flint officials: Pay for tainted water or we take your home

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After dealing with more than three years of undrinkable water, poisoned by government decisions on the city's water supply, residents, Flint, Michigan, have been told by city authorities to pay their water bills or face the consequences of undrinkable water, poisoned by government decisions on the city's water supply. The water is still suspect.

Some of the bills total nearly $1,000. Those with half a year or more of unpaid bills were given a one-month deadline. "This is absolutely appalling after what's happened here," Flint resident LeeAnne Walters, one of the leaders of the fight for clean water, told the Militant in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

In April 2014, in a scheme to save money that was supported by many local officials, Emergency City Manager Darnell Earley — appointed by Michigan Gov. Richard Snyder and given the power to make all financial decisions for the local government — switched the city's water supply from Detroit to the very contaminated Flint River.

Even though Flint River water was 19 times more corrosive than the water from Detroit, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Flint didn't need to add a simple corrosion inhibitor to keep lead from leaching out of the pipes. The procedure would have cost just $100 a day.

Even as Flint River water was treated for Flint River water was treated in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

"This is absolutely appalling after what's happened here," Flint resident LeeAnne Walters, one of the leaders of the fight for clean water, told the Militant in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

In April 2014, in a scheme to save money that was supported by many local officials, Emergency City Manager Darnell Earley — appointed by Michigan Gov. Richard Snyder and given the power to make all financial decisions for the local government — switched the city's water supply from Detroit to the very contaminated Flint River.

Even though Flint River water was 19 times more corrosive than the water from Detroit, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Flint didn't need to add a simple corrosion inhibitor to keep lead from leaching out of the pipes. The procedure would have cost just $100 a day.

Even as Flint River water was treated for Flint River water was treated in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

"This is absolutely appalling after what's happened here," Flint resident LeeAnne Walters, one of the leaders of the fight for clean water, told the Militant in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

In April 2014, in a scheme to save money that was supported by many local officials, Emergency City Manager Darnell Earley — appointed by Michigan Gov. Richard Snyder and given the power to make all financial decisions for the local government — switched the city's water supply from Detroit to the very contaminated Flint River.

Even though Flint River water was 19 times more corrosive than the water from Detroit, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Flint didn't need to add a simple corrosion inhibitor to keep lead from leaching out of the pipes. The procedure would have cost just $100 a day.

Even as Flint River water was treated for Flint River water was treated in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

"This is absolutely appalling after what's happened here," Flint resident LeeAnne Walters, one of the leaders of the fight for clean water, told the Militant in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

In April 2014, in a scheme to save money that was supported by many local officials, Emergency City Manager Darnell Earley — appointed by Michigan Gov. Richard Snyder and given the power to make all financial decisions for the local government — switched the city's water supply from Detroit to the very contaminated Flint River.

Even though Flint River water was 19 times more corrosive than the water from Detroit, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Flint didn't need to add a simple corrosion inhibitor to keep lead from leaching out of the pipes. The procedure would have cost just $100 a day.

Even as Flint River water was treated for Flint River water was treated in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

"This is absolutely appalling after what's happened here," Flint resident LeeAnne Walters, one of the leaders of the fight for clean water, told the Militant in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

In April 2014, in a scheme to save money that was supported by many local officials, Emergency City Manager Darnell Earley — appointed by Michigan Gov. Richard Snyder and given the power to make all financial decisions for the local government — switched the city's water supply from Detroit to the very contaminated Flint River.

Even though Flint River water was 19 times more corrosive than the water from Detroit, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Flint didn't need to add a simple corrosion inhibitor to keep lead from leaching out of the pipes. The procedure would have cost just $100 a day.

Even as Flint River water was treated for Flint River water was treated in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

"This is absolutely appalling after what's happened here," Flint resident LeeAnne Walters, one of the leaders of the fight for clean water, told the Militant in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

In April 2014, in a scheme to save money that was supported by many local officials, Emergency City Manager Darnell Earley — appointed by Michigan Gov. Richard Snyder and given the power to make all financial decisions for the local government — switched the city's water supply from Detroit to the very contaminated Flint River.

Even though Flint River water was 19 times more corrosive than the water from Detroit, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Flint didn't need to add a simple corrosion inhibitor to keep lead from leaching out of the pipes. The procedure would have cost just $100 a day.

Even as Flint River water was treated for Flint River water was treated in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

"This is absolutely appalling after what's happened here," Flint resident LeeAnne Walters, one of the leaders of the fight for clean water, told the Militant in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

In April 2014, in a scheme to save money that was supported by many local officials, Emergency City Manager Darnell Earley — appointed by Michigan Gov. Richard Snyder and given the power to make all financial decisions for the local government — switched the city's water supply from Detroit to the very contaminated Flint River.

Even though Flint River water was 19 times more corrosive than the water from Detroit, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Flint didn't need to add a simple corrosion inhibitor to keep lead from leaching out of the pipes. The procedure would have cost just $100 a day.
Quebec construction workers protest return-to-work order

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — Thousands of striking construction workers from throughout Quebec demonstrated in Quebec City May 29 to protest the Liberal government’s decision to invoke Bill 142 ordering them back to work. Some 175,000 unionized construction workers had walked off the job five days earlier, striking against concession contract proposals, including provisions for forced overtime.

The workers are organized in an alliance of construction workers that includes the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ) and the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) and three other unions. They had been without a contract with the bosses represented by the Quebec Construction Association since April 30.

The union alliance organized mass meetings in 11 cities on May 16 to prepare the strike. The bosses refused to withdraw demands that included abolishing the five-day workweek, letting employers unilaterally change workers’ schedules at any time, with no supplementary compensation.

“The weather is too bad, they will force us to come in on a Saturday, whatever you have planned. I cannot accept that,” Alain Lebrasseur, a construction worker on the Champlain Bridge, said Michel Trépanier, spokesperson for the alliance of construction unions. “There are limits and they’ve been reached.”

One striker carried a picket sign showing a ballot with a choice between family and slavery, with an “X” beside family. The second day of the strike thousands of unionists demonstrated with their families in several regions of Quebec.

In the Montreal area hundreds of workers picketed at the huge construction sites for the Turcot highway interchange, the new Champlain Bridge, and the CHUM hospital.

From the first day of the strike, Quebec Labor Minister Dominique Vien threatened to outlaw the strike. Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, whose administration has poured millions into construction projects in preparation for the city’s 375th anniversary celebration this summer, urged the provincial government to step in.

The government used the law to bar any further strike action and impose mediation through October. After that any unresolved issues will be subject to binding arbitration. The law gives the workers a 1.3 percent salary increase until a new contract is reached — lower than the 2.6 percent workers were demanding. The union alliance says it will challenge Law 142 in the courts.

Four years ago the Quebec government used strikebreaking legislation to order some 77,000 residential, commercial, and institutional construction workers back to work.

BY LEA SHERMAN

Congratulations to all! With your efforts, the seven-week Militant Fighting Fund campaign has gone over the goal of raising $112,000 — bringing in $113,270. The fund is essential to the paper’s budget — for operating expenses; to subsidize the cost and complimentary companions’ subscriptions; and for field reporting teams whenever and wherever important developments in the class struggle break out.

More donations will be coming in earmarked for the recent solidarity and reporting trip to Puerto Rico, where the Militant sent Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, Martin Koppel and Linda Joyce to stand with Oscar López Rivera after his release from almost 36 years in U.S. prisons. The capitalist rulers hate him for his uncompromising stance in opposition to U.S. colonialism and for the independence of Puerto Rico.

New contributors gave many hundreds of dollars — mostly ones, twos, fives and tens — to party members campaigning for communism in working class neighborhoods, on workers’ picket lines and at social protests.

The fund ran concurrently with the SWP’s campaign to introduce the party to workers. Over the seven weeks, working people and youth learned about, discussed and debated the SWP program and the political questions posed by the unfolding world-wide crisis of capitalism today. They bought 1,145 books by Jack Barnes and Mary-Alice Waters, leaders of the party, and 1,252 subscriptions to the Militant, along with thousands of single copies.

The Militant has almost 150 prisoners who subscribe to the paper and benefit from the fund.

“Every week that we people receive your newspaper, ‘The Militant,’ it gives us more hope, more strength and more unity,” one worker behind bars wrote from Florida. “I ask that you will never give up your stride and that you continue to be a tool and voice for the masses.”

The success of the party-building campaigns sets us up to continue to expand the reach of the Militant and the Socialist Workers Party.

The SWP will be hosting an Active Workers Conference June 15-17 in Ohio, where party leaders will give presentations on the deepening capitalist economic and social crisis and what working people can do to build a movement to take political power. Classes will discuss the Middle East, the damage to workers struggling from ‘political correctness’ campaigns and other important questions. If you want to learn more about the party or the conference, contact branches in your area in the directory on page 8.

Militant Fighting Fund
April 1-May 23 (final results)

Country Quota Paid %
UNITED STATES

Albany $4,100 $4,730 101%
Atlanta $10,725 $10,835 101%
Chicago $11,850 $11,010 93%
Denver $750 $775 103%
Lincoln $350 $335 101%
Los Angeles $8,450 $8,752 104%
Miami $3,200 $3,225 101%
New York $16,600 $16,716 101%
Oakland $13,700 $13,706 101%
Philadelphia $3,600 $3,632 101%
Seattle $7,300 $7,598 104%
Twin Cities $4,100 $4,866 119%
Washington $7,350 $7,543 101%
Total U.S. $92,075 $93,748 101%

CANADA

Montreal $5,100 $5,700 112%
Vancouver $3,000 $2,499 83%
Total Canada $8,100 $8,199 101%

NEW ZEALAND $4,575 $4,900 104%

AUSTRALIA $1,175 $1,430 122%

UNITED KINGDOM

London $2,450 $2,450 100%
Manchester $925 $965 104%
Total UK $3,375 $3,415 101%
FRANCE $450 $478 101%
Other $1,100
Total $10,950 $11,270 103%

Total $109,750 $113,270 101%

Congratulations! Militant Fighting Fund over the top

SPECIAL BOOK OFFERS

Available for $5 each (half price) with Militant subscription (trial offer 12 weeks $5)

Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?
Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes

The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record
Why Washington Fears Working People
by Jack Barnes

Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?
A Necessary Debate Among Working People
by Mary-Alice Waters

$7 EACH WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION (NORMALY $10)

To subscribe or purchase books at these prices, contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 8.

The Militant
June 12, 2017
3
Trump foreign policy

Continued from front page

US President Donald Trump pushes U.S. imperialist interests at NATO meeting May 25. Rulers fear of working class fabs liberals’ campaigns to attack political rights, right to vote.

Continued on page 9

UK rulers push ‘national unity’ to attack rights

Continued from front page

U.S. President Donald Trump pushes U.S. imperialist interests at NATO meeting May 25. Rulers fear of working class fabs liberals’ campaigns to attack political rights, right to vote.
Rally in Vancouver supports striking Idaho silver miners

BY JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — “Hecla, Hecla you can’t hide, we can see your greedy side,” chanted supporters of silver miners on strike at the Lucky Friday mine in Mullan, Idaho, outside the company’s shareholders meeting here May 25.

Protesters held a rally chaired by Steve Hunt, director of District 3 of the United Steelworkers in western Canada. The Idaho miners are members of USW Local 5114. They went on strike March 13 after rejecting the company’s “final” concession contract offer.

The Lucky Friday miners were hosted by USW Local 480, which organizes workers at the Trail, British Columbia, smelter that processes the U.S. miners’ silver. Local 480’s contract expires May 31.

John Darrington, one of the Idaho miners, said they got a very warm reception and “nothing leafleted at a shift change at the smelter. They also visited Steelworkers Local 2009 in Langley.

“I’m just amazed” at the breadth of solidarity, said Darrington, who has worked in the Lucky Friday mine for 12 years. “Hecla’s office is in Coeur d’Alene back in Idaho. I don’t know why they came to Vancouver, I think they were hiding. The union here in Canada really stepped up.”

Striker Rick Norman, two other miners, and one miner’s wife attended the meeting and submitted written questions. “Rather than provoking a labor dispute, why didn’t Hecla continue to honor the status quo and negotiate again when new mining techniques are proved to be safe and reliable?” Norman asked. Company officials made no attempt to answer the question, he told the Militant.

“The strike is about safety and respect. The company wants complete right of assignment to work in the mine,” Steve Powers, USW staff representative assigned to the strike, told protesters. He pointed to the bosses’ demand to eliminate a worker seniority-based team-bidding system that workers say helps to protect their safety. “Two workers were killed in 2011 because of shoddy mining practices,” Powers said.

Irene Lanzinger, president of the B.C. Federation of Labour, and José Angel Hernández, a representative of the National Union of Mining, Metalurgical, Steel and Allied Workers of Mexico, also spoke. Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union from Vancouver joined the protest.

United Steelworkers on strike against Hecla bosses’ silver mine in Mullan, Idaho, and other unionists protest at company’s shareholders meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, May 25.

New Zealand flood disaster is result of capitalist rule

BY FELICITY COGGAN

EDGECUMBE, New Zealand — “The floodwaters are gone but not these effects,” Marcus Matchit told the Militant May 13, describing the social disaster unfolding in this small town after a massive flood in April. The Rangitahiki River burst through floodgates at the town’s north entrance, and a cyclone Debbie hit the region, inundating most of the town.

A wall of water pushed houses off their foundations, washed away cars, trapped pets, and flooded the supermarket, doctor’s clinic and shopping mall.

Government officials told the 1,600 residents to leave. Many went on foot, with minutes to spare, taking only the clothes they were wearing. While the local governing council organized a few busses, official advice was to “self-evacuate.”

Water continued to flow into the town until 11 p.m. the following night before the breach was sealed. Houses remained flooded for days.

Sixteen houses are beyond repair and will be demolished while some 250 have been damaged they need to be stripped down to the frame before being rebuilt.

Much of the surrounding farmland was flooded. Over 3,500 dairy cows had to be moved, animal feed was destroyed and milk dumped. The local Fonterra dairy factory, a large employer in the town, was closed for several days.

 EDGEcumbe residents had been warning of such a disaster for decades. The town is built on the flood plains of the river, much of which is below sea level. In 1987 a large earthquake sank part of the town further so that when the river floods it runs above the level of the town. Earth stopbanks (levees) follow the river for much of its course but for 50 yards alongside the town’s center they drop down and a six-inch thick concrete wall — now gone — was all that held the river back.

At a public meeting on April 8 Tony Bonne, mayor of the nearby town of Whakatane, said that the rain was the problem and “I can’t guarantee to protect people from massive weather bombs.”

“The council noted the skinny little concrete wall had cracks in it in 2004,” Raewyn Tulloch said from the floor. “Obviously they’ve done nothing about it. Many lives are going to be devastated.”

Graeme Bourk, a plumber and member of the local elected community board, and his wife Gayle, a retired pharmacy assistant, were among a group of displaced residents Communist League members at a church hall where they are staying.

People were angry that the flood wall was not upgraded after the 2004 floods as the regional council promised, and that Trustpower bosses, who run a dam upriver from the town, allowed river flow to rise nearly sixfold for 24 hours before the flood. Trustpower should have spilled the dam well before the storm so it could contain the rainfall, they said.

Trustpower is a privately owned for-profit energy company, using the dam to generate electricity.

After the disaster company and government spokespeople claimed they didn’t do anything wrong. “Tough decisions were made and our data shows that these have paid off,” Bay of Plenty Regional Council Flood Manager Peter Blackwood said.

This is “exactly what happened in 2004: poor information, poor flood management protocols between the regional council and Trustpower. Result: disaster,” Colin Holmes, former mayor of Whakatane, told the press.

Continued on page 6

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

June 12, 1992

African National Congress president Nelson Mandela warned the South African government May 28 that it must do more to bring to an end white minority domination of the country.

Mandela said, “We have to move as quickly as possible to arrive at a new constitution which must enshrine the principle of a united, democratic, non-racial, and nonsexist South Africa.”

“The masses consider this regime to be illegitimate,” Mandela warned the government. “Through their struggles, they created the possibility for a meaningful resolution of the problems of our country.”

Mandela emphasized that “not only do the masses have the right, they have the duty to engage in struggle to change their condition, change any government or leader they see as acting against their common good.”

June 12, 1967

The war in Vietnam was blasted by Brig. Gen. Robert L. Hughes, U.S. Army Reserve, at a Memorial Day meeting in Madison, Wis.

Gen. Hughes said, “In this new era of political unrest, we cannot police the world, we cannot impose our social system on other nations. We are losing the flower of American youth in a war that could stretch into perpetuity. We must disengage from this tragic war.”

According to the Madison Capital Times, a reporter circulating through the crowd “found general approval of his address.” “Somebody has to say these things,” was one comment.

“This was a surprise package but I agree with him entirely,” was another. Those who disagreed added that they would “defend the right” of Hughes to state his opinions. One veteran said, “It was shocking, but he gave me something to think about.”

June 13, 1942

In an effort to halt the strike wave throughout the coal mining areas of England, Scotland and Wales, the Churchill government has announced a plan for the operation of the mines under the control of the government.

Britain’s 700,000 miners have long been demanding a minimum wage. Miners have left the pits by the thousands. This has contributed to an extreme coal shortage in Britain, which the government is trying to overcome by taking over control of the mine operations.

So long as the control of the mines remains in the hands of government officials representing the interests of the mine owners, the grievances of the mine workers will remain as acute as ever.

The solution lies in a struggle for governmental appropriation of the mines and their operation by committees democratically elected by workers.
In Cuba, ‘There is no future without the past’

Revolutionary Cuba responds to US White House

BY JIM BRADLEY

“Someone failed to tell Donald Trump the truth before the U.S. president congratulated the Cuban people for its Independence Day May 20,” wrote Oscar Sánchez Serra in Granma, the official voice of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba May 23.

“The only independence Cubans celebrate is that one we achieved definitively on Jan. 1, 1959, with the leadership of our undefeated Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz,” Sánchez said.

He was replying to a “Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Cuban Independence Day” marking May 20, 1902, which attacked and slandered the socialist revolution.

“Independence was not won 115 years ago,” states Sánchez emphatically. “The story is a bit longer.”

Sánchez tells the real story of Washington’s colonial rule over Cuba and Cuba’s victorious struggle for independence led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement that led workers and farmers to power in 1959.

And Sánchez explains the continuity of revolutionary leadership in Cuba, from José Martí to Castro. The editorial is titled, “There Is No Future Without the Past.”

He quotes Martí, a leader of the Cuban independence struggle against Spain, who warned his co-combatants that they should beware of Washington’s “a de facto neocolonial republic,” says Sánchez.

“We are not going to celebrate May 20, 1902, but we are going to commemorate it, we are going to remember,” Sánchez says, quoting Havana City Historian Eusebio Leal Spengler. “We must deeply analyze the republic and understand this revolution we have. There is no future without the past.”

During his visit to Cuba in March 2016, President Barack Obama — like President Trump now — arrogantly advised the Cubans to forget about their past under the bloody domination of U.S. imperialism.

And to forget Washington’s more 50-year history of efforts to overthrow the Cuban Revolution.

“These included attempted invasions, backing attacks by counterrevolutionary Cuban exiles, economic sabotage, multiple attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro and more. Pavón made a speech in which he uses the most sugar-coated words to express: ‘It is time, now, to forget the past, leave the past behind, let us look to the future together, a future of hope,’” Fidel Castro wrote after Obama’s visit.

Despite Washington’s grudging re-establishment of diplomatic relations in 2015, the U.S. rulers continue to press to overturn Cuba’s socialist revolution. This is why millions of Cubans marched on May Day, to honor Fidel Castro’s historic legacy and to demand Washington end its punishing economic embargo, get out of Guantánamo and end its regime-change interventions into Cuba’s internal affairs.

“The Militant” 

“Prison was a tremendous school for us. We lived in a microcosm of the outside world. We’re victims of the U.S. empire’s giant publicity machine, which it uses to highlight whatever it finds to highlight,” said former political prisoner Yolanda Sánchez, who traveled to Cuba for the first time.

“Sánchez explained that by 1898 the Cuban Independence Army had ‘practically won the war against Spain. The Cuban forces were defeated, and physically and morally exhausted,’” Sánchez said.

The USS Maine mysteriously exploded in Havana Harbor Feb. 15, 1898. Washington used this pretext to declare war on Spain. Sánchez quoted Vladimir Lenin, the central leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution, who described the Spanish-American War as “the first imperialist war of the modern era.”

Cuban independence fighters didn’t know that the U.S. War Department had sent a letter, Sánchez noted, which called for “applying a blockade to cause hunger and disease — its eternal companion — to weaken the population and decimate the Cuban army.”

“We should create difficulties for the independent government” to force submission to U.S. demands, to weaken all contenders for power and eventually annex Cuba.

“This is the prelude to May 20, 1902,” states Sánchez. “Can this independence be celebrated? Do these events in Cuban Eugenio Eugenio Llansó’s The Dec. 10, 1898, Treaty of Paris, which decreed the end of Spanish colonial rule in the Caribbean, committed ‘a grievous offense against the dignity of Cubans who were not included in the talks,’ he says, handing Cuba to Washington as spoils of war.

As a condition for the withdrawal of its military forces from Cuba four years later, Washington insisted that a piece of U.S. legislation called the Platt Amendment be incorporated into the Cuban Constitution guaranteeing U.S. control over the island’s affairs. The rider included granting Washington the right to build a naval base at Guantánamo Bay.

“These included attempted invasions, backing attacks by counterrevolutionary Cuban exiles, economic sabotage, multiple attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro and more. Pavón made a speech in which he uses the most sugar-coated words to express: ‘It is time, now, to forget the past, leave the past behind, let us look to the future together, a future of hope,’” Fidel Castro wrote after Obama’s visit.

Despite Washington’s grudging re-establishment of diplomatic relations in 2015, the U.S. rulers continue to press to overturn Cuba’s socialist revolution. This is why millions of Cubans marched on May Day, to honor Fidel Castro’s historic legacy and to demand Washington end its punishing economic embargo, get out of Guantánamo and end its regime-change interventions into Cuba’s internal affairs.

Chicago brigadistas explain ‘What we saw in Cuba’

— JOHN HAWKINS

“‘It’s the poor who face the savagery of the US ‘justice’ system’

“Prison was a tremendous school for us. We lived in a microcosm of the outside world. We’re victims of the U.S. empire’s giant publicity machine, which it uses to highlight whatever it finds convenient. ... The battle of ideas is the great battle that we must take up with young people.”

— Gerardo Hernández

New Zealand flood disaster

Continued from page 5

“They should wake up and stop listening to the rich and listen to the poor,” said Rosemary Lowe.

Many who have lost all their possessions do not have insurance or are underinsured, residents told us. Mountains of ruined furniture, appliances and clothing had to be removed and dumped. “I felt like my whole private life was on the road,” Gayle Bourk said.

Numerous acts of working class solidarity have marked the aftermath of the flood — from locals cruising the town in boats rescuing people and pets to those putting up relatives and friends to donations of food, labor, money and goods. “We just had a truckload of tissues, toilet paper and nappies come in this morning,” said Gayle Bourk.

A key role has been played by several local marae (Maori community centers) that immediately began organizing accommodation and food for displaced residents and volunteers. The government has announced an inquiry into the breaching of the floodwall.

Graeme Bourk told us that residents have begun organizing their own meetings to discuss people’s questions and plan what to do. They are considering a class action lawsuit against the regional council and Trustpower over the floods.

“New Zealand is poorer now — we’re fighters,” he said.
March with Oscar López

Continued from front page

in the U.S. and Puerto Rico to advance the fight for the colony’s independence.

Most of the parade’s corporate sponsors — including Goya, Corona, the Daily News, Univisión, AT&T, the Yankee baseball team, Coca-Cola and Jet Blue — have pulled out, as has Gov. Andrew Cuomo and other capitalist politicians, along with organizations of Latino cops and firefighers of the island’s resources.

“Working people across New York should join the Puerto Rican Day Parade,” City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito released a statement signed by 35 elected officials, including a large number of the Council members, condemning the parade committee for inviting López.

The Post let slip that López’s political views, not his alleged “terrorism,” are behind their slander campaign. In a May 27 editorial the Post falsely claims “in referendum after referendum, Puerto Rico’s voters have overwhelmingly rejected independence. The paper reports that Puerto Rico’s colonial governor Ricardo Rossello told the paper that statehood is going to win “70 percent of voters in the island’s next plebiscite — which ironically comes June 11, the same day as the parade.”

The Post conveniently forgot to report that just about every political party and labor union on the island is calling for a boycott of the plebiscite, except for Rossello’s New Progressive Party. The boycott was called after the U.S. Justice Department made the government of Puerto Rico change the choices in the plebiscite, further exposing the island’s status as a U.S. colony. López, a Vietnam veteran, was arrested in 1981. Like other independen-
tists who were arrested the year before and accused of belonging to the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN), López refused to recognize the authority of the state, saying he was a pris-

nier of war. U.S. prosecutors relied heavily on the testimony of a turncoat informer, Alfredo Méndez. López presented proof that Méndez was promised help getting rid of a prior conviction from the FBI, Secret Service and then President Ron-
dale Reagan personally. Méndez disappeared into “witness protection.” López refuses to condemn any form of struggle against colonial exploitation and oppression, but points out that he was never charged with being involved in any bombing or act of violence. The main charge against him was for “sedici-

ous conspiracy,” that is conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government.

The Daily News has tried to link López to the bombing of the Fraunces Tavern on Jan. 24, 1975, claimed by the FALN, where four people died. “I respect human life and I had nothing to do with what happened at Fraun-
eces Tavern,” López told Univisión re-

porter Jorge Ramos, noting that if the government had any evidence what-
ssoever, they would have charged him. López was in Puerto Rico when the bombing happened.

López pointed out that two weeks before the tavern was bombed, a bomb was set off at a peaceful independen-
ty rally in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, killing two people, but the big business media never mentions it.

The FBI has admitted to collecting more than 1.5 million pages of illes on tens of thousands of supporters of Puer-
to Rican independence over the last 50 years. A 1961 memo from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover refers to U.S. govern-
ment “efforts to disrupt their activities and compromise their effectiveness.”

Wide range of views

At the annual Loisaida Festival May 26, a traditional celebration of Puerto Rican culture on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, there were a wide range of views on the controversy.

“That’s fine that he’s out of prison,” said Inocencio Pacheco, a small busi-

nessman. “But don’t honor him. He did something or he wouldn’t have been in jail for 36 years.”

Welcome Puerto Rico Freedom Fighter Oscar López! End U.S. Colonial Rule!

Upcoming events

Thurs., June 8 – 7 p.m. Hostos Community College, Bronx, New York
Fri., June 9 – 6:30 p.m. Crystal Ballroom, Taine Towers, Dinner Dance, NYC
Sat., June 10 – 6:30 p.m. El Maestro Cultural Center, Songs and Poetry, NYC
Sun., June 11 – 9:30 a.m. 5th Avenue, Puerto Rican Day Parade, NYC
Sat., June 17 – Grand Marshal Puerto Rican Day Parade, Chicago
Mon., June 19 – Oscar speaks at UN Hearing on Decolonization in NY
Mon., Sept. 18 – 7 p.m. Taller Puertorriqueño, Philadelphia

For more info: Boricuahumanrights.org

Atlanta: ‘We won’t be silent’ fighting deportations

BY SUSAN LAMONT

Atlanta, Ga. — “We can’t be silent or compliant,” said Luis Andino, standing on the steps of the Federal Building here May 20 with 100 other protesters. “We came to show support for Jessica Colotl, who is being tar-

geted by the new administration after seven years.”

Andino, 24, came with fellow mem-

bers of the Lambda Theta Phi Latino fraternity at the University of Georgia in Athens. Members of several chap-

ters of the Lambda Theta Alpha La-
tina sorority, to which Colotl belongs, were also on hand for the protest.

The action was called by the Ameri-
can Civil Liberties Union of Georgia, Georgia NAACP, Black Lives Mat-
ter Greater Atlanta, Georgia Equality and other groups.

Colotl, 28, moved to the United States from Mexico when she was 10-years-old. Colotl first gained na-
tional attention in 2010 when she was arrested on the Kennesaw State University campus near Atlanta and charged with impeding traffic and driving without a license. She was held at a federal immigration deten-
tion center in Alabama for more than a month. Protests initiated by her sorority drew national attention and

won her release. Colotl graduated and has been working since.

Immigration and Customs Enforce-

ment revoked her Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status May 3 and has threatened to deport her. Established by executive order by President Barack

Obama in 2012, DACA put a moratori-

um on deportations for many immigrant youth and allowed them to work.

ICE officials say Colotl admitted to giving an incorrect address to a police officer during the 2010 traffic stop. Co-

lotl said she had given them her pre-

vious address and had moved while the case was in process. Nonetheless her guilty plea is a felony conviction for immigration purposes.

ICE spokesman Bryan Cox told the At-

lanta Journal-Constitution.

This is nothing new. The govern-

ment has canceled DACA status for

about 1,500 youth since the start of the program because of alleged “crim-

inality or gang affiliation concerns.”

Colotl is appealing her deportation order in federal court.

In the first three months since President Donald Trump took office, ICE has stepped up the pace of ar-

rests of undocumented immigrants, reversing a trend of a decrease over the final two years President Obama was in office.

Janice Lynn contributed to this ar-

"U.S. imperialism controls our country socially, politically and economically... but our people are becoming aware of their own strength, which is what the colonial powers fear"

— Rafael Cancel Miranda

Puerto Rico: Independence is a Necessity. Two interviews with Rafael Cancel Miranda, one of five Puerto Rican Nationalists who spent more than a quarter century in U.S. prisons. $6

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes, National Secretary; Socialist Workers Party $10

See distributors on page 8 or visit www.pathfinderpress.com

"The decolonization of our country is viable and feasible," Oscar López said at May 29 celebration by Women of the Bridge, which held monthly protests in San Juan demanding his freedom.

"There is a lot of disinformation out there," letter carrier Julio Rodriguez Aponte said. “López was not found guilty of bombing anyone.”

“…a lot of Puerto Ricans in New York don’t know our own history,” said Eli-
lott Ray. Ray, who is unemployed, said that like other young people he started looking up things on his own and he’s now “more pro-independence.”

Retired worker José Concepción said, “Goya, Corona, they all make a lot of money off of us Puerto Ricans Who are they to say who we should honor?”

Fernando Ponce Laspa, a spokes-
person for the NY Organizer for Os-
car, said supporters of López are taking advantage of the controversy to build the decolonization contingent at the pa-

rade.

“…we have to take the slander cam-

paign seriously,” said Laspa.”But it’s going to be a good parade. It will be more about the people, not the cor-

porations.”

After the parade, López will continue

touring and speaking out in support of independence for Puerto Rico. In the fall he plans to visit revolutionary Cuba and thank the Cubans for their support against U.S. colonial oppres-

sion and his fight for freedom.
The Militant
June 12, 2017

8

Fight grows to stop Kentucky govt’s moves to close last clinic

BY JIM BRADLEY AND LEA SHERMAN

The drive by Kentucky state government officials to shut down the EMW Women’s Surgical Center in Louisville, the state’s only remaining abortion clinic, has become an important front in the fight to defend a woman’s right to choose abortion. It comes as anti-war forces are stepping up attacks on abortion rights across the country.

The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services told EMW its license would be revoked April 3 because its agreements with a local hospital and ambulance service were deficient. “Calls to our hotline by women seeking abortions have increased,” Marice Crim, executive director of Kentucky Health and Justice Network, told the Militant. “We’ve gone from six to 10 calls a week to 20 to 30. And more women are attempting self-induced abortions.”

So-called pro-choice activists rallied outside the clinic April 2, carrying signs that said, “My body my choice!” and “Resist!” The American Civil Liberties Union won a restraining order blocking the closing and then filed a federal lawsuit challenging the closure order as unconstitutional. A trial on the suit is set for July.

The drive to shut down the Louisville clinic follows the successful effort over the past year by “unapologetically pro-life” Gov. Matt Bevin to shut down two clinics. Bevin’s “cabinet” of anti-abortion state officials agreed to back a new Planned Parenthood clinic over the past year by “unapologetically pro-life” Gov. Matt Bevin to shut down two clinics. Bevin’s “cabinet” of anti-abortion state officials agreed to back a new Planned Parenthood clinic.

EMW Women’s Surgical Center, the state’s only remaining abortion clinic, open in Louisville, Kentucky, April 2.
**Militant** fights Fla. prison censorship

Continued from front page

**By CHUCK GUERRA**

MILAN, Fla. — Some 58,000 Haitians in the United States under Temporary Protected Status will have their legal status terminated in January 2018, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced May 22. TPS allows refugees from natural disasters and wars abroad to live and work in the U.S.

The Barack Obama administration extended Temporary Protected Status to immigrants from Haiti after a 2010 earthquake there killed 300,000 people and left 1.5 million homeless. Some 9,000 more were killed in a cholera epidemic. U.N. troops sent after the quake, and 1,000 were killed when Hurricane Matthew left much of the country devastated in 2016.

Department of Homeland Security officials told the press the situation in Haiti “has substantially improved” and the Haitian government wants their people back.

Haitian immigrants fight deportation

**Haitian immigrants fight deportation**

Continued from front page

**Dental care class divide**

Continued from front page

<article article-896256>

**Join SWP campaigning in Albany!**

Continued from front page

** assault by the bosses. She encouraged meeting partic- ipants to back the strikes by 175,000 construction workers in Quebec and silver miners in Mullan, Idaho.

“We want to win workers to seeing that the Cuban Revolution is a powerful example for the com- munist America,” Trowe said. She and Hart went were both participants in the recent May Day March in Havana.

Trowe urged participants to join her in taking advantage of growing openings to campaign for communist ideas to convince candidates, and to expand the distribution of the Militant and books by SWP leaders.

She invited everyone to come to Albany to help campaign for the SWP in July and August, and, as they campaign, to sign 500 signatures to put the party on the ballot.

The Albany campaign, she said, will be an oppor- tunity to deepen collaboration with the SWP branch in New York and the Communist League branch in Montreal.

**‘Militant’ fights Fla. prison censorship**

Continued from front page

**Trowe asked, ‘“It’s a dangerous witch hunt, because it’s aimed at the working class and its vanguard.”’

“Every labor battle breaking out today is impor- tant,” Trowe stressed. “Just how many members of the Militant have gotten to know strikers at Momentive, in nearby Waterford, who beat back a union-busting

The Militant   June 12, 2017            9

Continued from page 4

**Trump foreign policy**

Working people face unusually far-reaching crisis conditions today. Growing numbers sense there is nothing the bosses can do to turn around the econom- ic, social and moral crisis of capitalism, apart from taking it out on us, including in their wars abroad.

The growing witch-hunt atmosphere aimed at Trump is dangerous for the working class, as the capitalist rulers use it to attack our political rights.

The rulers’ foreign policy is an extension of their assault on working people all around.

The “peace” movement needs its own foreign policy, independent of the capitalist rulers, starting from solidarity with the struggles of working people worldwide.

**Dental care class divide**

Continued from front page

**High-end cosmetic dentistry is booming, with upper middle class meritocratic backers spending “well over $1 billion each year just to make their teeth a few shades whiter,” said Gész. But at the same time, many workers — even those who have full-time jobs — don’t have the money for basic dental care.

Millions of these workers are forced to rely on charity clinics or hospital emergency rooms to deal with infected and painful teeth. Hundreds lined up at one such clinic in Salisbury, Maryland, in mid- May, wanting basic care to prevent further damage, whose “care” consisted mainly in pulling teeth.

“‘The country is way too divided between well-off people and people struggling for everything — even to see a dentist,’” said Matello, 46, who hadn’t seen a dentist in nearly a decade, told the Post. “And the worst part is, I don’t see a bridge to cross over to be one of those rich people.” For years she had been on food stamps and limited benefits.

Matello — like a number of workers living in industrial and farming areas, many of them Cauca- sian, had voted for Barack Obama for president in 2008 and then Donald Trump in 2016 — in hopes of seeing a cure for the ongoing living and working conditions she faced.

Last year more than 2 million people went to the emergency room because of dental problems. Un- treated infections in the mouth can spread to other parts of the body and lead to disease and heart problems. And tooth loss can make it more difficult to eat and speak, not to say of what it does to your appearance and self- confidence.

“What I am seeing is absolutely horrifying,” the Post reported George Acs, director of the dental department at Chesapeake Health Care clinic in Maryland, told the state health commissioner. “Dentists just pass out ‘a perpetual cycle of antibiotics and opioids,’ he said. And this cycle spreads the opioid addiction epidemic throughout the U.S.

Adding to the woes is the fact that there is a large numbers of workers and farmers in rural areas, and growing numbers in cities as well, who don’t have access to fluoridated water.

The chemical fluorine, which reduces tooth decay, began being added to public water systems in the 1940s. Today fluor- idated water is available to some three-quarters of the U.S. population. But 80 million people don’t have access to fluoridated water. Some of them draw their water from wells. Others have been seduced by a massive profit-thirsty advertising blitz to use “naturally pure” bottled water — which isn’t fluo- ridated — instead.

More than one-third of U.S. adults have no den- tal insurance, according to the American Dental Association. Dental problems aren’t considered medical problems, but they can lead to other health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, and tooth loss. And poor people are least likely to have insurance.

Medicare, which covers 55 million people aged 65 and over and those workers who succeed in running the bureaucratic gauntlet to get disability, doesn’t cover any kind of dental care.

Some 72 million people have fought their way onto Medicaid, but under this federal program dental care costs are covered for adults who manage to get Medicaid. And only 38 percent of dentists accept Medicaid, the Post said.

**‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund**

The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send pris- oners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 308 W. 57th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.