

# Celebrate the Life and Political Contributions of Betsy McDonald

## 45-year cadre of the Socialist Workers Party



Defending the Cuban Revolution and seeking to expand the jury of millions who would win the release of the Cuban Five, Betsy introduced participants at the 2013 Tucson Festival of Books to *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*.



1968 anti-Vietnam war demonstration in Tucson.

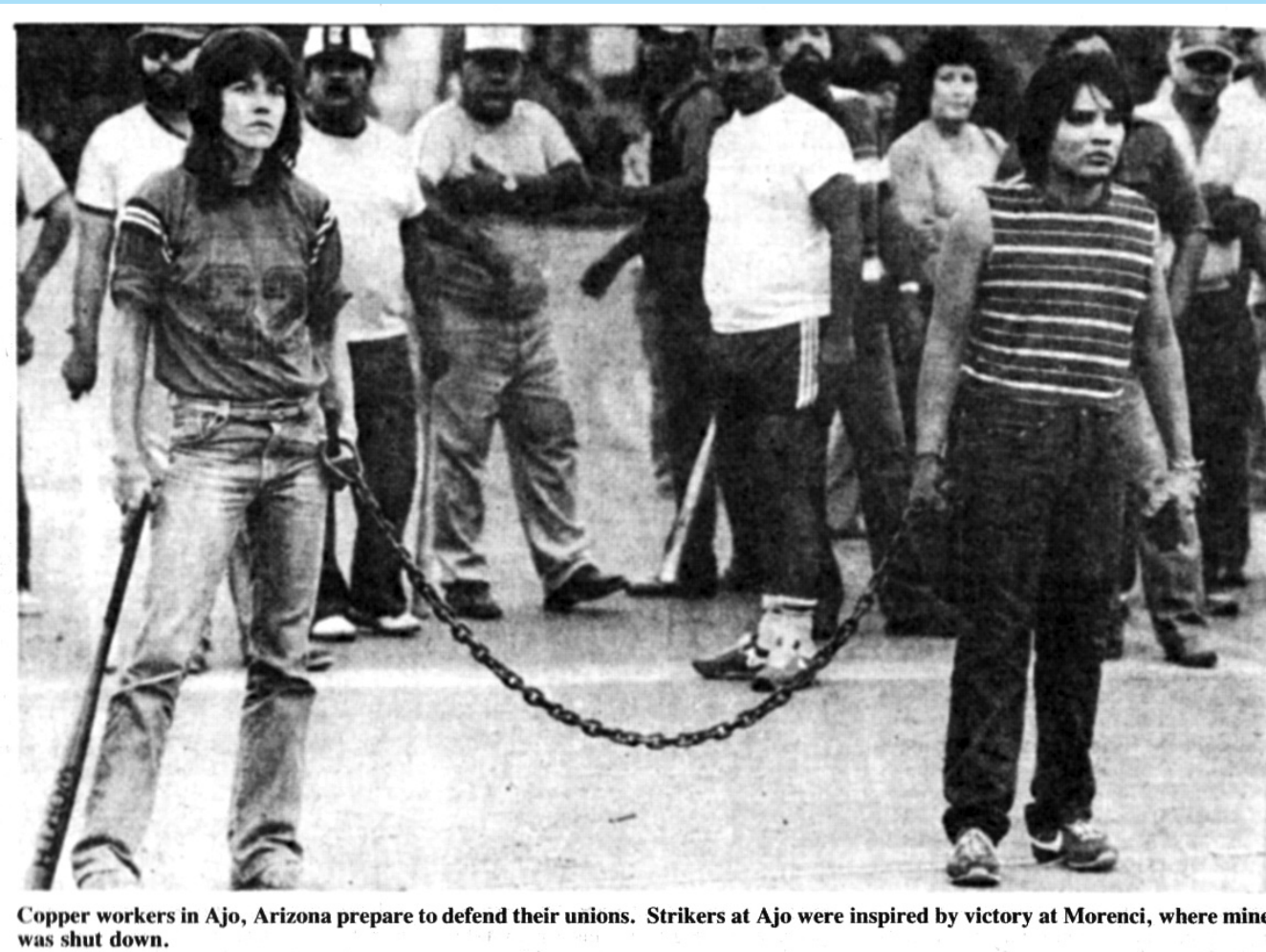
Betsy joined the Socialist Workers Party in 1972 as a well-respected fighter in the labor movement and for Mexican-American and Black rights going back to the 1950s. In 1968, she supported the SWP presidential campaign of Fred Halstead and Paul Boutelle.



Fred Halstead talking to GIs in Vietnam in 1968.

From the *Militant*, August 26, 1983

In 1978, Betsy joined the SWP's campaign to get into industry to help build fighting unions and win workers to the party. She was 58 years old. She was known for promoting the SWP program, and circulating the party's newspaper the *Militant* and Pathfinder books. In 1983, the party and the Phoenix and Tucson branches turned to the Phelps Dodge copper strike. Betsy was a member of the Phoenix branch.



Copper workers in Ajo, Arizona prepare to defend their unions. Strikers at Ajo were inspired by victory at Morenci, where mine was shut down.



Top: state troopers and sheriff's deputies march against copper strikers in Ajo, Arizona, August 9. Bottom: 1,000 miners mobilize outside Phelps Dodge gate in Morenci August 8 and succeed in forcing company to shut down mine.

### Hasta Pronto Amiga Betsy

“From our earliest memories of you [in Tucson], protesting the Vietnam War, supporting the Cananea miners when the Grupo Mexico bullies devastated the strong Mexican labor union town, organizing against police abuse, to every action and social movement in Arizona, your image as a fierce fighter for full cultural and economic justice for all will remain with each and every one of us.”

– excerpt from message by *Coalición de Derechos Humanos* members **Isabel Garcia, Guadalupe Castillo, and Raquel Rubio-Goldsmith**



Phoenix, Arizona, “March for Human Rights” attended by 10,000 in 2010 to protest anti-immigrant policies of Maricopa County sheriff Joseph Arpaio.

### THE MILITANT

Vol.64/No.25 June 26, 2000

#### Arizona vigilante assaults on immigrants draw protests

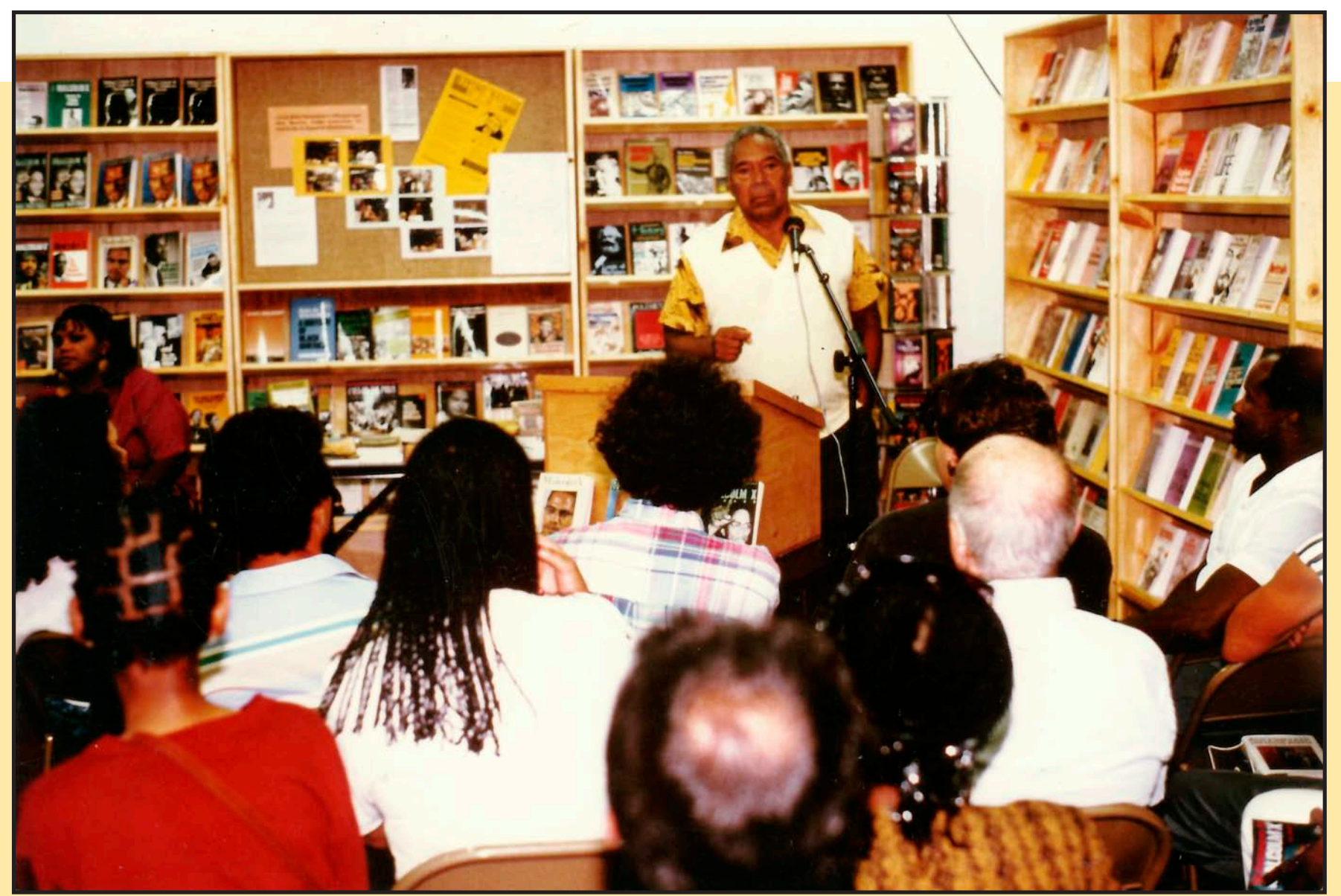
**BY BETSY MCDONALD**  
TUCSON, Arizona--A protest organized June 2 by the immigrant rights group Derechos Humanos (Human Rights) drew 500 people here to demand an end to attacks on undocumented workers along the U.S. border. Rightist vigilante actions have recently with the backhanded support of the U.S. Br

Participants in the vigil came from Ar several cities in California, as well Many stayed the next day to pa planning meeting.

Demilitarization of the right of workers to f raised by speaker session. A call participant tentative July y



Mass protests erupted in Los Angeles in 1992 following the acquittal of the cops who brutally beat Rodney King.



Betsy was active in raising funds and support to rebuild the SWP headquarters in Los Angeles that was burned down during the explosions around the acquittal.

Hector Marroquin addressing the National Education Association convention in 1983.



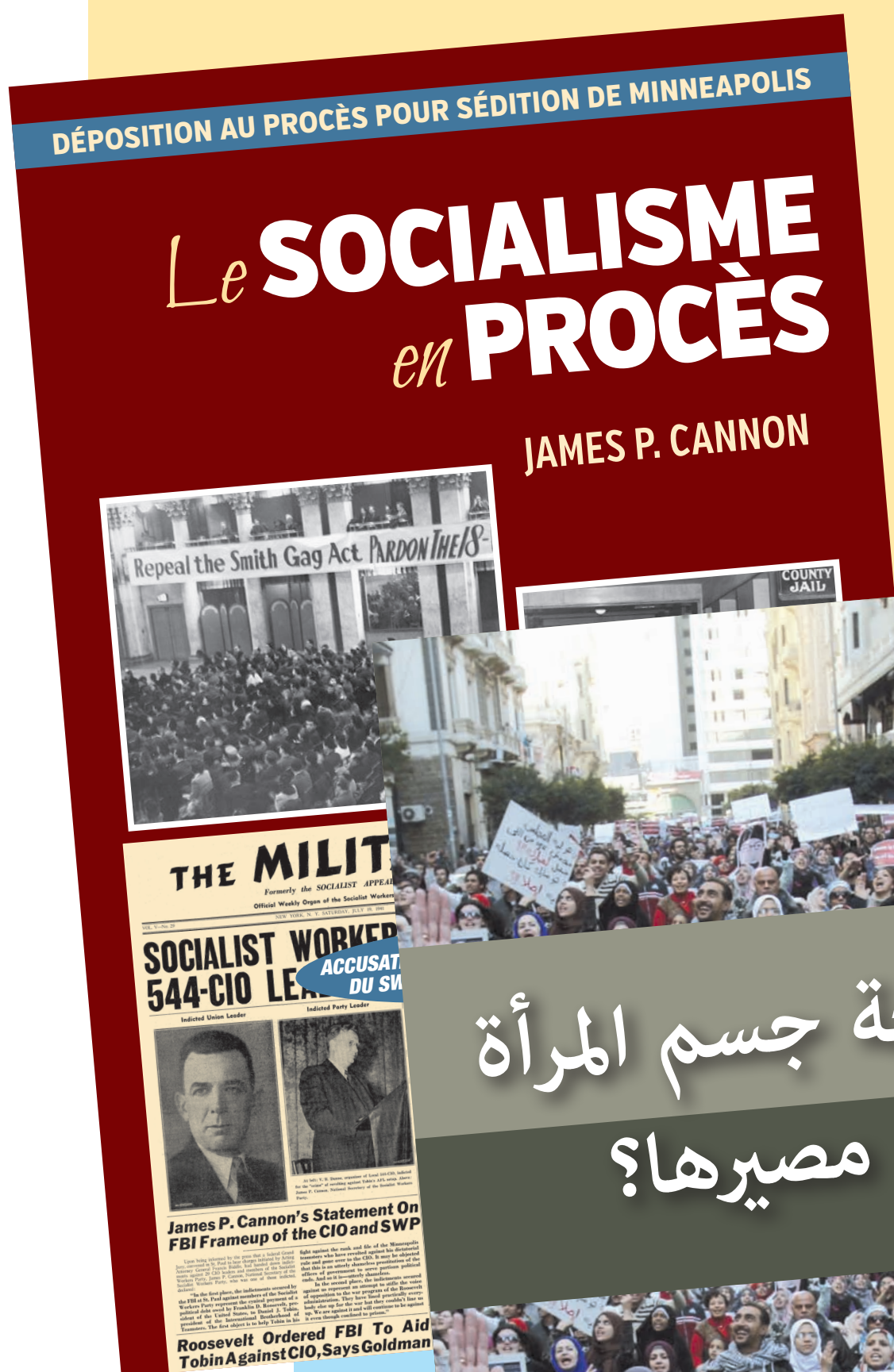
A successful eleven-year campaign, ending in 1988, was waged to prevent the deportation of SWP member Hector Marroquin to Mexico. Hector was arrested when Betsy was driving him from an event in Phoenix. She followed them to the police station and helped organize a protest that won his release.



Betsy McDonald, in dark dress, with family.



Betsy with her comrades. Young Socialist members Gloria, Laura and a YS contact in a park outside Los Angeles. Betsy helped win many young people to the communist movement.



هل طبيعة جسم المرأة  
تحدد مصيرها؟



*Socialism on Trial* in French, *Is Biology Women's Destiny?* in Arabic, and *Teamster Politics*. In the last years of her life, up until her final days, Betsy stayed active in the party's Print Project to expand the Marxist arsenal.

