

CHALLENGE



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Board of Ed. Cuts \$ and Teachers; Raises Class Size:

Workers Fight Bosses' Racist 'Lesson Plan'

CHICAGO, IL, July 1 — "We don't get paid for this job," the president of the Chicago Board of Education told parents at the June meeting.

"I'm glad to hear that you are displacing teachers and screwing our children's education from the bottom of your heart," a parent replied, in the spirit of two years of struggle by teachers in CORE (Caucus of Rank-and-File Educators), parents, students, and community groups. Speaking out — and demonstrating, when the opportunity arises — helps to mobilize and organize forces to oppose these attacks on education.

The Board wanted to use the meeting to solve its "budget crisis" on the backs of students and school employees, but the discussion didn't go as planned. As one speaker said, "You guys should be ashamed." Another pointed out, "Schools are more than bricks and mortar. Why should we terminate quality teachers?" Under capitalism, there is always plenty of money for imperialist war, bank and corporate bailouts, and politicians' pet projects. But there is never enough for workers' needs.

For example, the Chicago Public Schools CEO, Ron Huberman, claims that they might need to fire 2,700 teachers and raise the average class size to 35 to save \$150 million and close their budget gap. Yet Mayor Daley is hoarding \$250 million in "Tax Increment Funding" for his private slush fund. As always under capitalism, the question is more than dollars and cents; it's about who profits — and at whose expense.

While Chicago's disinvestment in its schools is a disgraceful case of child neglect, money alone won't solve the problem. The content of U.S. public education is primarily aimed to give working-class students a salute-the-flag fast-track to fighting in imperialist wars, toiling in minimum-wage jobs, or suffering racist unemployment.

Parents and teachers spoke passionately about teachers who spend their own time and money and devise creative and effective ways to reach all students. The scores of people in the audience applauded these remarks, while Huberman and the Board members sat stone-faced or worse. (One board member fell asleep, and another was busy texting.) As one of about two hundred "honorably-terminated" teachers said, "We have been left on the street with no job and no health insurance."

A PLP member underscored that racism continues to be perpetuated by Board policies. Because this administration claims to

be "data driven" (meaning if student test scores don't go up, teachers could be fired), the speaker used data to expose its racism. There are 2,100 fewer African-American teachers now than in 2002, a drop from 40 to 30 percent of the total teaching force. Thirty percent of white students attend selective enrollment high schools, or three times the proportion of students in general. Finally, 72 percent of African-American students attend segregated, low-performing schools with the greatest chance of being reconstituted (or "turned around," as the Board likes to say) with all new staff.

The PLP member concluded by stating, "The data-driven conclusion is that the Board runs a racist school system that provides separate and unequal education for over 70 percent of the system's African-American students. In addition, it is decimating the system's African-American teaching force." Loud applause and handshakes from the audience, frozen stony faces from the Board. In an era where many think the U.S. has moved "past racism," it is incumbent on communists and others to expose it at every opportunity. Capitalism will not be destroyed unless anti-racism leads the fight. ✪

Only Communist Revolution Leaves No Child Behind Bosses' 'Race to the Top' Leaves Most at the Bottom

School systems across the country are facing the worst cutbacks in decades, while Obama's promises to withdraw from Afghanistan are coming undone barely six months after he made them. In a brazenly honest way, education secretary Arne Duncan has vowed to "let no crisis be wasted" in the ruling class's ongoing strategy to solve their economic and military problems through attacks on the working class. This is the same Duncan who accelerated the re-segregation of the Chicago school system, coupled with a noxious cocktail of education "reforms" now being imposed throughout the country through the bribery of Obama's cynical "Race to the Top."

Charter schools, merit pay, data-driven teacher evaluation, standardized exams — none of these bosses' ploys can meet the needs of students. Teachers must not be fooled into siding for or against any of these schemes. They're all intended to deliver students more efficiently into the hands of the ruling class, to be exploited in the

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33 Million Jobless — What ‘Economic Recovery’?

No matter how the Obama administration or the bosses’ media pundits try to spin the “economic recovery,” the actual 33 million jobless figure keeps getting in the way. Now even some of the NY Times analysts have taken to confirming what Karl Marx proved over a century ago: capitalism inevitably breeds unemployment. And capitalism based on racism breeds double unemployment rates for black and Latino workers.

As CHALLENGE has reported previously, the “official” U.S. jobless rate hovering around 10% represents 15 million unemployed. The latest headlines scream a June “drop” to 9.5% (a phony figure — see next paragraph). But the actual rate — including part-timers who can’t find full-time jobs and “discouraged” workers who have given up looking — jumps to 21.6%, more than double the “official” figure. (Shadowstats.com, Commentary #301).

And the “discouraged” workers are only counted as “discouraged” if they’ve stopped looking for up to six months. But millions have been out of work over a year and therefore are completely off the radar screen. All this doesn’t even count the workers on welfare who would work if there were jobs and available day-care.

Statistical Juggling

The government’s “official” unemployment rate for June “drops” to 9.5% because it is based on the Payroll Survey that counts the number of jobs — not the number of people with jobs — and therefore includes multiple job holders. The government’s own “Household Survey” counts the number of people with jobs which showed a June job contraction of 301,000! So how can the jobless rate “drop” to 9.5% when the number of people without jobs increases? Only by statistical juggling.

An Associated Press dispatch (6/19) ran under a NY Times headline, “Most State Jobless Rates Fall.” But right there in the first paragraph it reports: “mainly because people gave up looking for work and were no longer counted.” (Maybe the headline writer didn’t read the article.)

Meanwhile, the bosses’ Congress can’t even pass legislation extending unemployment checks for the 1.8 million whose benefits expired in the last two months — although they can “preserve a tax loophole benefitting the wealthy money managers at private equity firms” (NY Times editorial, 6/30). This gift-wraps tens of millions of dollars for these parasites who helped bring on the financial crisis in the first place.

None of these “analyses” of the jobless figures even mention the fact that at least 40% of the jobless are excluded altogether from unemployment benefits because of government restrictions. Many of them admit that millions of those currently out of work may never work again. That’s “democracy” under the profit system.

Yes, Marx Was Right!

Now along come some of these columnists writing about the economy to prove Marx was right. Marx said that because every capitalist drives for maximum profits, looking to capture as much of the market as possible, it inevitably leads to overproduction of the means of production and of goods: all of them can’t sell what their workers produced. So to try to maintain their very existence, many of them close factories and lay off workers, who can’t buy back what they’ve produced, leading to more closures and still more layoffs. That’s known as the “bust” in capitalism’s business cycle.

NY Times business writer Andrew Sorkin, in maintaining that no amount of financial “regulations” can stop this “bust,” says: “Businesses in general, and Wall Street in particular, often over-reach in search of profits....We haven’t found a way to legislate around that reality.” (NYT, 6/29)

That reality means millions lose their jobs, their savings, their homes and their health insurance. And because of racist discrimination, doubly so for black and Latino workers.

Furthermore, this is an international phenomenon since capitalism covers the planet. So workers are facing this crisis in Greece, Spain (jobless rate 20%), Portugal, Ireland and Eastern Europe, among others, with France, England and Germany not far behind.

Meanwhile, imperialism — capitalists extending their search for maximum profits to low-wage

areas in Asia, Africa and Latin America — reduces hundreds of millions of workers to permanent poverty, with several billion trying to live on less than \$2 a day. This, of course, leads to imperialist wars as the only way these rival capitalists ultimately can settle who will have the “right” to exploit the most workers.

Sorkin faces the facts of capitalism. His article is headlined, “Preparing For Next Big One,” stating,

“The next Great Crash is coming. Guaranteed.... [and] sooner than we think.”

“How can I be so sure? Because the history of modern markets is a story of meltdowns.”

He then details the blow-ups in the U.S., Mexico, East Asia, Russia and the dot-com bombs — all in just the last 20 years. Every one of these produced mass layoffs for workers. Then he catalogues “The stagflation of the 1970s, the Depression of the 1930s, the panics in the 1900s... and back and back and back...all the way to the Dutch and their tulip bulbs.”

“Booms go bust. That’s the way markets work....[And] the one thing it [the Obama financial reform Act] won’t do is prevent another crisis....”

He concludes that this Act may help “prepare us for the next Big One....But it won’t stop it.”

There’s only one thing that can stop it — communist revolution, because it destroys the profit system and the capitalist state apparatus that enforces it. Communism is a society run by and for the working class which, after all, is the class that produces all the value in capitalist society. But in a profit-free society our class will allocate all that we produce according to workers’ needs. That’s the real “Next Big One.” ☘

OUR FIGHT

★ **Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.**

★ **Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.**

★ **Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.**

★ **While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.**

★ **Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society’s benefits and burdens.**

★ **Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.**

★ **Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.**

★ **Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.**

★ **Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.**

★ **Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!**

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Why Articles Are Not Signed

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual. While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.



'Race to the Top'

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workplace or the military. It's a contradiction for the rulers to "leave no child behind" in a "race to the top." In such a race, working-class kids will inevitably lose because the capitalist education system was never designed to prepare all students to succeed.

Major ruling-class figures are saying so themselves. In the May/June 2008 issue of "Foreign Affairs," the house organ for the Rockefeller wing of the ruling class, prominent pundit Fareed Zakaria wrote, "If the United States cannot educate and train a third of the working population to compete in a knowledge economy, this will drag down the country."

If we do the math, that's two-thirds of the working class that the rulers plan to leave behind. They are using the latest financial crisis as an opportunity to trim spending on classrooms and pension funds. They need a school system that will preserve the status quo of class relations. Under capitalism, a portion of workers is always disposable. In a society founded on slavery, these are mostly black and Latino workers. With rising racist unemployment devastating millions, the ruling class needs schools to help reorganize society and to crush the idea that a job is a basic right.

Nobody in education — no liberal in the White House, no union misleader — is dealing with the heart of the matter. The basic drive of capitalism toward imperialist war and increased exploitation of the working class makes education reform a joke. The exceptional cases where schools do a better job of educating our youth can only be viewed as oases in a desert of racist neglect, not as models that the bosses will reproduce for all. Education reform will make education for the masses a meaningless process of test prep. Teachers also stand to be more sharply exploited, and will be forced to work harder for less money.

Communists need and value every one of us. Each individual contains the potential to understand and change the world. Through the first two-thirds of the twentieth century, hundreds of millions of working people banished disease, illiteracy, and imperialist exploitation from their societies under the leadership of communists. These magnificent movements were reversed, but their achievements can and must be replicated and deepened. Communism, and only communism, leaves no child behind. Join PLP! ☪

Spy Saga: Sharpening Imperialist Dogfight A Deadly Drama

Treating the latest Russian spy scandal as mere entertainment misses the point. Sure, all the makings of a Hollywood blockbuster are there. But U.S. media are likening the plot to 1960s thrillers (or parodies of them), to obscure the stubborn fact that U.S. and Russian capitalist rulers still aim at destroying one another, while killing millions of workers in the process.

Despite Obama's promised "reset," the imperialist rivalry between U.S. and Russian rulers is getting hotter. The two remain the most heavily-armed contenders — followed by Chinese and European bosses — in a sharpening competition for control of the world's resources, markets and labor.

Kremlin bosses bent on economic, political and military expansion practice espionage seriously. So do their Pentagon foes, charged with maintaining the tottering U.S. empire. Some U.S. pundits dismiss the spy incident as a harmless, out-dated holdover of a Cold War mindset that no longer applies. In fact, it reflects the ongoing inter-imperialist struggle, headed to escalate into armed conflict.

Obama & Co. Step Up Missile, Nuke Face-Off

While front pages and web pages featured images of Russian agent Anna Chapman, Hillary Clinton was in Krakow on July 2 signing a pact that puts U.S. Patriot and SM-3 missiles on Polish soil. Obama's envoy absurdly claimed the missiles will defend Europe from a potential attack by Iran. But it's Russia, not Iran, which lies on Poland's border.

Clinton just wound up a whirlwind tour of former Soviet and Soviet-bloc states seeking their military allegiance to Washington. "Poland has been rattled by Russia's more assertive foreign policy on the territory of the ex-Soviet Union, especially in Georgia, and the Patriot deal is seen as symbolically important in underlining U.S. commitment to its security." (Reuters, 7/1) She also visited the Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, areas hotly contested by Russia's military presence and by George Soros-financed

pro-U.S. election rigging.

More ominously, U.S. and Russian rulers continue to jockey for supremacy in city-destroying nuclear arms. But the U.S. wants the lethal edge in current arms talks that may soon limit strategic warheads to 1,550 a side, mainly for financial reasons.

Asked how the spy flap might affect his stance on the treaty, liberal warhawk Senator Joe Lieberman said, "I'd like to be assured that we're investing enough money in modernization. In a world in which there will be nuclear weapons for a good long time... I want to make sure that the smaller number of weapons we're left with in our stockpile work." He no doubt worried about Russian infiltration into the U.S.'s bomb program. One Russian agent had "made contact with an individual who works for a U.S. research facility that works on small-yield, high-penetration nuclear warheads." (Christian Science Monitor, 6/28)

Russian Spies Not As Incompetent As U.S. Bosses Pretend

Though probably not top agents, the seized Russians were hardly incompetent bunglers. Their influence reached fairly high into the U.S. Establishment. One spy, Cambridge, Mass.-based Donald Heathfield, had discussed a business deal with strategist Leon Fuerth, who would have been Al Gore's national security advisor if Bush hadn't stolen the 2000 election. And another spy, Manhattan Mata Hari Chapman, met Nouriel Roubini several times on "social" occasions. Economist Roubini has become a darling in U.S. rulers' eyes because he foretold the current economic crash.

What we are witnessing in the spy case is not theatre, but a deadly aspect of what Lenin called "the highest stage of capitalism." He was referring to the imperialist rivalry that underlay World War I. Forget the "James Bond" jokes. For workers today, the stakes are as high as in 1917. ☪

N.J. Racist Cuts: Death for Unemployed, \$3 Billion to Bankers

On June 29, N.J. Governor Christie signed the budget passed by the Democrat-controlled legislature. In addition to \$1 billion in education and student aid cuts (hitting urban districts especially hard) and \$450 million less in aid to cities, the budget puts a 2.5% cap on salary increases for all local government workers, terminates state health insurance for 12,000 immigrants, cuts \$9 million from legal services to the poor and cuts state payments to households with a disabled person.

The Democrats mounted only token opposition; they "won" a paltry \$81 million in restorations out of over \$2 billion in total cuts proposed by Christie. The restoration package included the General Assistance (GA) program, which was slated to wipe out cash benefits for employable adults on July 1.

In 1992, New Jersey politicians tried to make GA a six-month program. At that time, those would-be killer cutbacks were met with a massive campaign, led in part by the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and the International Committee Against Racism (InCAR). In the six months leading up to the cutoff, we organized mass marches; and led a sit-in at the Governor's office in December. All of this, along with other actions statewide, stopped the cuts cold, led to the creation of more jobs and convinced a number of people to join PLP.

This year the opposition to the cuts was highlighted by a student walkout on April 27, which PLP members helped organize, and a May 22 Trenton rally of 35,000 workers. But Christie and the Democrats continued to dance together on workers' backs. The Democrats first voted to reinstate the "millionaires' tax", which would slice \$1 billion off the cuts. Then, when Christie vetoed it, they dropped the tax in their desperation to make a deal with him. Workers and students are making plans to continue the struggle into the fall and beyond.

Both parties hid the \$3 billion in this budget being paid as interest to the bondholders and bankers. The union leaders who called the Trenton rally did nothing to expose this or organize more actions to fight the cuts. After the budget passed, Christie vetoed a tax increase on businesses that would have gone into the state unemployment fund.

Christie originally called for maximum weekly unemployment benefits to be cut by \$50 per week. Instead, he has settled for expanding the reasons for denying unemployment claims based on alleged "gross misconduct." This will give more bosses the incentive to concoct rationales for firing workers and then deny them the benefits they have paid into while working.

Cuts to legal services programs will cost almost

100 jobs, including layoffs, buyouts, and resignations. This will, in turn, result in huge reductions in services to unemployed and under-employed workers who face evictions, utility shutoffs, benefit cuts or denials, foreclosures, creditor lawsuits, etc. A committee of union members did organize to try and stop these cuts. However, most members thought lobbying the politicians or relying on the "influence" of statewide legal services' bosses was the best strategy. In the end, workers learned the bitter lesson that the Democrats' promises of restoring cuts made to legal services' programs were all hollow.

Cutting money used to meet basic needs will kill people. The bankers and bosses need to tighten the racist screws on the most vulnerable section of the working class to offset lost profits from their own economic crisis. They also need to increase the racist scapegoating of black, Latino and immigrant workers to distract workers' anger away from their real enemy — capitalism — and try to mobilize support for their unending oil wars.

Communist revolution will abolish the capitalist competition and constant drive to lower wages which is behind unemployment, and the capitalist crises that lead to economic depressions. PLP aims to lead that revolution— join us. ☪

Gaza Flotilla Episode Marks U.S. Bosses' Decline

Recently a flotilla of ships bringing humanitarian aid to Palestinians trapped in Gaza behind a fascist Israeli blockade was boarded and attacked by Israeli commandos on the high seas. On one ship, the Mavi Marmara, the commandos encountered resistance, opened fire, and killed nine of the travelers.

Videos showed that the passengers fought militantly and bravely against the commandos, succeeding in disabling several and knocking some off the ship into the water. This action helps to dispel the "myth of invincibility" surrounding the Israeli military and its own CIA, the Mossad. They can be fought and beaten with boldness and militancy, even if they ultimately succeeded in gaining control of the ship.

But there's a bigger picture involved in this episode. Israel has functioned as the proxy for U.S. imperialism in the Middle East. The U.S.-Israeli axis has operated for decades to intimidate the bosses of Arab nations and force them into compliance with the needs of U.S. imperialism, which are mainly about controlling the oil and gas resources in the Middle-East and Central Asia. Arab and Iranian bosses have chafed under this threat and more and more, there is resistance to the U.S.-Israel axis.

Communist Resistance Needed

Most of this resistance, unfortunately, has been led by Islamic political forces with reactionary ideologies such as "restoring the Caliphate," punishing non-believers in Allah, and reducing women to the status of virtual slaves. This has been the case with the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, the Islamic Republic of Iran,

and much of the resistance in Iraq and Pakistan.

More recently, Prime Minister Recep Erdogan, leader of Turkey's Justice and Development Party (an Islamic Party in Turkey), has joined the pro-Palestinian cause, dramatically changing Turkey's long-standing pro-Israel stance. He criticized Israeli President Shimon Peres at the Davos Economic Conference in January 2009. Obama, despite Turkey's continuing membership in NATO, felt it was necessary to visit Turkey.

Murder by a State

Nevertheless, at the U.N., Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu correctly called the raid "murder conducted by a state" and demanded an immediate Israeli apology, international legal action and an end to the blockade.

Many of the passengers on the Mavi Marmara were Islamic militants supported by the Justice and Development Party and organized by Insani Yardim Vakfi (IHH), a humanitarian group in Turkey that supports Hamas. Those who died fighting the fascist Israeli commandos have been hailed at mass rallies in Turkey as Islamic martyrs. Notably absent from these rallies were the large workers' groups which despise Islamic militants in Turkey and have been involved in pitched battles with them on May Days in past years.

Some of these leftist organizations had sent fighters to Palestine in the 1970s to fight alongside George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a secular, militant, nationalist Marxist group aligned with the Soviet Union. These fight-

ers learned first-hand of the treachery of the Islamic groups in Palestine, who killed many of their members despite the fact that they were nominally united.

The flotilla episode is one more example of the relative decline of U.S. imperialism. Turkey's initial move away from its long-standing alliance with the U.S. marks an important step. This action builds on the recent deal that Turkey and Brazil worked out with Iran (to hold its uranium) that undercut U.S. imperialism's designs against Iran's nuclear ambitions. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton could only get the U.N. to approve very limited sanctions.

U.S. Isolation

The U.S. is being increasingly isolated in its Mid-east and Central Asian ambitions. Meanwhile, U.S. rivals, China and Russia, are dealing freely with Iran, gaining access to resources in deals that will only strengthen their geostrategic position.

The flotilla episode reflects in a dramatic way the sharpening conflict among the imperialists and the U.S.'s increasing desperation to hold onto its allies as its rivals gain ground.

With serious, dedicated work, the PLP can grow internationally and be positioned to turn the coming imperialist world war into communist revolution. Just as our predecessors in Russia and China did, we can turn their willing slaughter of workers for the sake of profit into a battle for a classless, communist society. Boldness and growth of the international communist movement is increasingly urgent! ☸

Central Asia: Workers Need Communist Revolution — Rulers' Battleground Becomes Workers' Bloodbath



The U.S., upset by the Kyrgyz drift towards Russia, financed the "Tulip Revolution" in 2005, toppling the Kyrgyz government and installing a pro-Western dictator. In 2009, Russia paid the new Kyrgyz government \$2.4 billion to evict the U.S. from Manas Air Base, forcing the U.S. to assemble a \$200-million aid package, increasing the base's rent to \$60 million.

The Kyrgyz government, fearing Russian retaliation, gave the Russians a sweetheart deal on a second base near the Uzbek/Tajikistan border. Now a new spate of rioting has again toppled the Kyrgyz government, plunging the country into chaos, with many suspecting Russian involvement after the opposition made closing Manas Air Field its primary demand.

Since the Soviet Union's collapse, the U.S. has sought greater involvement in the critical Central Asia region, which holds some of the world's largest energy and uranium reserves. With its 1992 Freedom Support Act, the U.S. has openly funded pro-Western political movements in the post-Soviet states.

Increased military involvement in Central Asia is, a goal which the ruling class's Hart-Rudman Commission and Project for a New American Century reports listed as critical to containing Russian and Chinese influence.

In 2002, Russia countered, creating the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. After Uzbekistan evicted the U.S. from its base in 2005, Russia granted the country significant aid packages, inviting it to join the CSTO in 2006. In 2007, Russia built a base there, adjoining the Novi uranium mining and enrichment plant. Russia's 2008 invasion of Georgia also helped secure an important Russian military outpost in the region, countering the U.S.-financed 2003 "Rose Revolution" which installed U.S. lackey Mikheil Saa-

kashvili as president.

China, not to be outdone, has been flexing considerable muscle in Pakistan, much to the dismay of the U.S. In 2001, dictator Perez Musharraf declared Pakistan an ally in the U.S. "war on terror" after receiving significant contributions in aid and military equipment. China then began courting Musharraf by promising to fast-track the heavily-Chinese-financed Gwadar Deep Sea Port construction project.

By 2006 Musharraf was publicly denouncing the U.S. and its "bullying" of Pakistan. A year later terrorist attacks against Chinese workers on the port project led Musharraf to declare a state of emergency in Pakistan. Many believed the CIA was behind the attacks.

This past March, Pakistan brokered a deal with Iran and China to build the Iran-Pakistan (IP) pipeline. This endangered U.S. plans for the larger Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline as well as the Nabucco pipeline connection in the Caspian Sea.

The U.S. has increasingly been moving military operations into Pakistan under the cover of "attacking terrorist hideouts." In response, groups connected to the Pakistani intelligence agency (ISI) have launched terrorist attacks in India (a key U.S. ally) and Afghanistan. The U.S. military is now saying withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan may have to be delayed.

Russia, with its declining population, has no better opportunity than now to seriously counter U.S. power in the region. The U.S., with its faltering economy, needs to seize these resources to contain Chinese growth, while China has the money and opportunity to secure its energy future.

The world's imperialist powers are moving closer to war with each other. Only communist revolution can free workers from the bloodbaths that capitalist crisis and competition inevitably bring. ☸

(for sources, go to www.plp.org)

With the continuing war in Afghanistan spilling into Pakistan and the country of Kyrgyzstan falling into chaos, the U.S. media again rolled out its tired myths of "ancient ethnic rivalries" leading to conflict. Meanwhile, they gloss over the absence of these "innate" ethnic tensions during the Soviet era. Many news sources have even blamed Stalin (now dead for almost 60 years) for the current chaos in Central Asia.

But it is inter-imperialist rivalry among the U.S., Russia and China for control of valuable natural gas reserves and pipeline real estate that is driving the political disorder, social unrest and wars in the area, strategically located between Russia, China and the Middle-East.

The current crisis in Kyrgyzstan that toppled the government and killed thousands of civilians dates back to 2001, not centuries. Using the 9/11 attacks and the war in Afghanistan as a pretext, the U.S. began pushing for bases in Central Asia. Eventually it received Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan for a measly \$17 million/year. Russia, incensed by U.S. encroachment in "its" backyard, made a similar deal in 2003 for a base only 12 miles from Manas.

France: While Union Hacks Try to Save System:

2,000,000 Marchers Hit Pension Cuts

PARIS, July 3 — On June 24, nearly 2,000,000 workers protested the bosses' government's pension "reform" which will cut pensions by up to 40% over the next 40 years and raise the minimum age for a partial pension to 62 as well as the minimum age for a full pension to 67. The 1.9 million demonstrated in 201 rallies and marches across France. In Paris, 130,000 marched.

Thousands struck — almost 20% of civil servants, 16% of local government workers, and 12.5% of hospital workers as well as half the Finance Ministry workers. These figures doubled the number striking during the previous May 27 action.

Polls reported two-thirds of the country supported the June 24 actions and 56% oppose the government's retirement "reform." Half of those opposing the reform said they would fight it.

Pushing back the legal retirement age will especially penalize the working class, most of whom don't attend college and consequently begin working earlier.

The CGT union leaders who called the demonstrations were surprised that twice as many turned out as they had forecast. The campaign will continue throughout the summer, including holding protest rallies at stops of the Tour de France bicycle race.

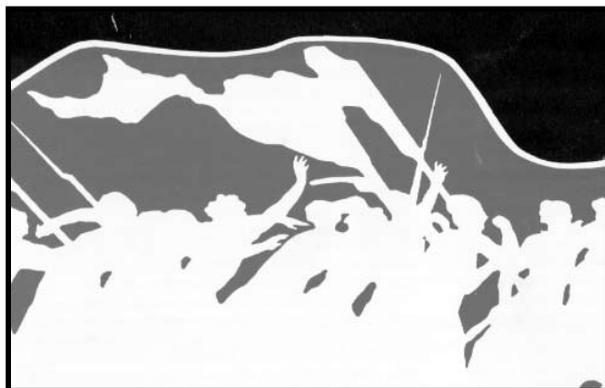
The French cabinet is to approve the retirement "reform" on July 13. Demonstrations and another 24-hour strike are planned for Sept. 7, when the French parliament will debate the issue.

But the trade unions remain firmly attached to capitalism. They denounce the pension cuts as a "brake on consumer con-



June 24, 2010 demonstration in Marseille. The banner reads "Jobs, Retirement, Solidarity Throughout Europe."

sumption" which will stall any recovery from capitalism's economic crisis. Instead of worrying about saving the profit system which constantly attacks the workers, the working class needs to destroy capitalism and its exploitation with communist revolution. ☸



Bangladesh: Garment Strikers Shut Shops, Roads; Hurl Bricks at Cops



In Bangladesh, some of the most exploited workers in the world are militantly fighting back and are beginning to come together as a class. Since June 13, tens of thousands of garment workers (85% of whom are women) have closed down 700 factories, shut down main roads to Dhaka (the capital), erected barricades and lobbed bricks at the police who have tried to tear gas and beat the workers. Large demonstrations of workers have divided up into smaller groups and visited factories and brought the workers there out into the streets.

Three million textile workers toil for less than \$25 a month. They work in 4,500 factories turning out garments for Walmart, Levi Strauss, H&M, Zara and Carrefour, who sell them for many times what the workers are paid. Besides receiving pennies an hour in wages, the workers work long hours, and are often not paid on time.

The workers are demanding that their wages be tripled. The big retailers like Walmart have made a fortune off the low-paid labor of women workers in Asian countries. But workers in Bangladesh, Vietnam (where 10,000 shoe factory workers recently went on strike), China and other Asian countries are demonstrating once again that exploitation engenders class struggle and some day, revolution. ☸

France: Immigrants' Strike 'Over' But Strikers Keep Up Fight

PARIS, June 29 — The strike is not over for all of the 6,769 undocumented workers who struck here since last October. On June 27, their delegates decided to maintain their action against all bosses who have not yet signed a "promise to employ." This document (called a Cerfa in French), is required for "legalization." But many bosses must be forced to sign them. And there are many details to be followed to obtain "legalization."

All this week, informational meetings are being held by trade (construction, restaurant, cleaning and security, temporary worker, etc.) to explain the June 18 agreement ending the eight-month strike (see CHALLENGE, (7/7)). Next week similar meetings will be held for all the strike-support organizations.

The strikers and their supporters are establishing a massive organization to monitor every striker's application for "legalization." This includes opening two or three offices in Paris and one in every département where there are strikers; local and Paris copies of individual data sheets, so that snags at the local level can be ironed out at the Immigration Ministry in Paris; and special monitoring of the "legalization" of undocumented workers against whom deportation orders are outstanding. All this must be

done during the July-August holiday months.

While the strikers' applications will be given top priority, other undocumented workers also will be helped to file for "legalization."

Mass Multi-Racial Action The Key

Amid all these bureaucratic capitalist roadblocks, it should be remembered that it was mass, militant, anti-racist rank-and-file action against the racist French government that brought these immigrant workers whatever advances they've made. As the CHALLENGE article stated (7/7), "The very fact that they struck as undocumented workers was itself a huge victory. It shows the international working class that immigrant workers worldwide can make such a fight and should be supported by all workers.

"A crucial factor essential to conducting the strike was the forging of multi-racial unity, notably between workers of African and Chinese origin, which gave the workers the fighting spirit needed for the 'illegal' occupations of work sites...."

"PLP has consistently pointed out that as long as the bosses can divide workers by defining some as 'illegal' because they have crossed capitalist-created borders — and enables the

bosses to super-exploit them and use them against native-born workers — it will weaken the entire working class. That's why PLP says workers should 'Smash All Borders!' — which can only be accomplished through a communist revolution that eliminates all bosses and all borders...."

"The continued existence of 'conditions' still differentiates these immigrants from France's native-born workers...."

As soon as the bosses think they can get away with it (and they do hold state power), they will try to break the "legalization" agreement. The racist labeling of some workers as "illegal" undermines working-class solidarity. It enables the bosses to super-exploit the world's 215 million immigrant workers with lower wages, worse conditions and constant job insecurity, under threat of deportation if they fight back.

Like the outcome of many workers' reform struggles under capitalism, this one is a compromise. However, by turning the continuing struggle into a "school for communism," workers can go beyond the struggle for "legalization" and take state power for ourselves through communist revolution. ☸

LETTERS



Slashed Workers' Wages Line Greek Bosses' Wallets

I've been working for almost a year now at a pizzeria after the work contract for my previous job expired. It is not that great, thanks to too many hours and too little money, but at least I am certain of the day's wages in my pocket.

This country is going downhill, if it hasn't already hit the bottom. Everybody who cares to be involved in the government does so only because they want to put some millions in their wallets and then quit like chickens.

These past years we lost a lot to capitalism, and now they are trying to make this country stand without feet! So we are forced to pay for their debts and their pleasures, as if we haven't already paid enough! They're even cutting our salaries! Salaries have been cut from workers employed by private companies as well as state workers. We know the money cut from our salaries will line the pockets of the bosses rather than helping other workers through social services. That's why we're on strike all the time, even though nothing has changed yet.

A friend from Greece

'Prisoners of Liberation'

Is a revolution for communist equality possible? What about a society based on working-class collectivity instead of the crass Individualism of capitalism in the U.S. today?

We feel that the Communist Revolution in China accomplished some of these goals, but we still have a whole lot more to learn and to put into practice.

In their book, "Prisoners of Liberation," Allyn and Adele Rickett describe the effects of the Communist Revolution in China. They were imprisoned for four years during the Korean War. While in prison they experienced a rehabilitation method of criticism and self-criticism.

"'Prisoners of Liberation' is one of the best available analyses of the process by which people are made to confront their social roles."

We hope that you will read this inspiring book!

Stockton, CA Book Collective

Demonizing N. Korea Keeps U.S. Bases Aimed at China

For those of us who tuned in to watch Brazil's first match of the World Cup we were treated to a surprisingly competitive performance from the first North Korean team to play in the World Cup since 1966. But beyond the action on the field there was a steady stream of commentary regarding the "insane machinations" of the "evil" North Koreans. We were treated to fantastic stories of invisible phones, Chinese

actors pretending to be North Korean fans, and pirated game footage being taken from South Korea and replayed in the North. The latter story has already been confirmed as a fraud and it is likely the others are too.

The U.S.-led Western media has spent much time developing the myth of a totalitarian North Korea. While it is true that North Korea is a military dictatorship with a fully-developed cult of personality around the Kim family, the depictions of a hapless population controlled by an all-knowing police-state is simply a myth.

The totalitarian ideal was developed in the West under the burgeoning new academic field of political science to defame the Soviet Union in the 1930s. By claiming total state control the totalitarian ideal removed the agency of workers themselves, turning them into hapless sumps incapable of action or change.

Representing the capitalists' ideal of the working class rather than the material reality, the totalitarian model rose to prominence alongside the individualist great-man theories of capitalist philosophy. The reality is that no state can function without the cooperation of a critical mass of the working class which believes in the state's legitimacy.

True, North Korea is a military dictatorship and the Juche (theory of self-reliance) ideal at the center of their political philosophy is about as far from communism as one gets, it is equally true that due to the extreme trauma of the Korean War (four million deaths in three years of fighting) and the continuing tension on the 38th parallel that the people of North Korea are committed to maintaining their state.

Defense Department planners are keenly aware of this reality. They estimated in 1992, before it was known that North Korea had a nuclear bomb, that a new Korean War would lead to one million casualties in Seoul, South Korea in the first 24 hours alone. This estimate was re-affirmed in 2003.

So the question is why the constant stream of antagonism and fabrications about North Korea in the U.S. and Western press? The reality is that the U.S. needs to demonize the North Korean regime and maintain the tension on the 38th parallel in order to justify the continued presence of 30,000 U.S. troops at strategic bases in South Korea.

It should be noted that typically there were 40,000 troops in South Korea, but 10,000 were shifted to Afghanistan by Obama. These bases serve as staging points for attacks against China and Eastern Russia, something that China has complained about for decades.

The U.S. has repeatedly denied North Korean offers to open up and ratchet down tensions and has been duplicitous in most of its

interactions with the state. The real reason for U.S. media attacks against North Korea is plain and simple imperialism and not, nor has it ever had anything to do with, concern for the plight of workers in N. Korea.

Red Beard

PL/InCAR's Internationalism, Anti-racism a Hit in South Africa

International solidarity is a beautiful thing.

In my recent trip to South Africa, I brought along the anti-apartheid International Committee Against Racism (InCAR) t-shirt from the 1980s. I showed it to our tour guide in Johannesburg and Soweto, and when we went to the Hector Petersen Museum (Hector was the first student killed during the 1976 student uprisings in Soweto), I saw Hector's sister and asked if I could meet her.

The guide asked what contribution to the struggle we had made in the U.S., and I explained not only about our anti-racist and anti-apartheid work but also our work in my union. He said, "Good, unions are very important here in South Africa" and introduced me to Antoinette Sithole. I told her about how U.S. workers and students had engaged in the fight against apartheid and showed her the t-shirt. She agreed to a photo of her holding the t-shirt with the tour guide, who had lost many family members during the Uprising. (see CHALLENGE, 7/7)

After that, the InCAR t-shirt was my calling card. The workers at the Ritz Backpacker Hostel where we stayed in Johannesburg loved it. A young Swedish woman who is in South Africa studying human rights and the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions also took a picture of it.

I brought the t-shirt along when we went to tour Robben Island, where Mandela had been a prisoner for 27 years. When the guide on the tour bus mentioned Sharpeville, a woman spoke up saying she had been at Sharpeville where hundreds of South Africans were protesting the pass-book laws and were gunned down by the fascist police. She was also moved by the t-shirt and we exchanged addresses.

The guide who showed us the prison cells where the political prisoners were kept was a former political prisoner. Upon seeing the t-shirt, he recognized the contributions U.S. workers and students made in supporting their fight against apartheid while the U.S. government supported the racist government.

Showing the t-shirt was a way of connecting with the workers of South Africa and their struggles. It became a symbol of solidarity. No matter to whom I showed it, immediate recognition of the anti-racist actions in the U.S. were noted and approval was expressed. Everyone wanted the t-shirt. Now I have to make copies and send them to the workers!

The symbol of our internationalism decades ago has laid the foundation for new international relationships for our Party today.

D.C. Red

1,011 Billionaires Steal \$3.5 TRILLION From World's Working Class — That's Capitalism

Three and one-half TRILLION dollars....That is the net worth of the 1,011 billionaires in the world today! The wealth of these 1,011 capitalists is probably enough to feed, house and clothe all the billions who live in poverty. But that's not the way capitalism works.

These blood-sucking bosses accumulated that wealth on the backs of all those who are ill-fed, ill-housed and ill-clothed. It could take care of all the so-called "deficits" afflicting hundreds of millions of workers today.

But again, these bosses' drive for maximum profits — the cornerstone of the capitalist system — is what puts tens of millions out of work, cuts budgets for schools, forecloses houses, all growing out of the nature of the profit system. When every president, finance minister, governor and mayor says "we" have to "share

the sacrifice" of the crisis of capitalism, they represent the interests of these rapacious billionaires. And in cases of politicians like NYC's billionaire mayor Michael Bloomberg, they are one and the same person, cutting budgets for schools, mass transit and all social services.

A recent Forbes Magazine reports all these gory details: the average net worth of these 1,011 is \$3.5 billion (multiplying those two figures produces the above \$3.5 trillion). The richest is Mexico's Carlos Slim, with \$53.5 billion, slightly ahead of Bill Gates. The U.S. has 403 on that list; China has 64; Russia has 62.

A system that produces such exploitation of the world's working class is begging to be destroyed, to be replaced by a system — communism — where our class which produces all that wealth will share it according to need. ☺



Disproving the Hero Theory of History

The "Black Jacobins," published in 1989, has the complete title "Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution." But the author, C.L.R. James, points out Toussaint's (known leader of the Haitian Revolution) grave political weaknesses. He proves that other less-known leaders and the masses themselves were the true movers of Haiti's revolution against France and for freedom from slavery. This book is an important account of a massive fight against imperialism.

San Domingo was the richest colony in the world. French, British and Spanish conflicts made governing unstable, as did warring factions of white aristocracy, plantation owners and merchants. All agreed, however, on the need for racist oppression. Weekly food rations for slaves would last three days for healthy persons, and they were often whipped to death. Many French workers, so moved by sufferings of slaves, stopped drinking coffee, thinking of it as drenched in blood and sweat.

Slaves Burned Plantations

The ideas of the bourgeois French Revolution influenced the Haitian Revolution. If all men were created equal, then slaves should be included in that too. This encouraged slaves to set fire to plantations. Toussaint, then a coachman, protected his owner's lands, however, for an entire month. Finally he began to train other slaves to be soldiers. He also wanted to make a deal, agreeing to reduce the number of slaves freed from 400 to 60. His tendency to give allegiance to French "civilization" and to rely on the "expertise" of white owners would continue to be major weaknesses.

Victor Hugues, of black and white descent (at

the time called by the racist name "Mulatto"), commanded slaves to chase out the British. Toussaint's army gained power over Spanish territory. The Spanish governor handed over the colony to Toussaint in 1800; Toussaint's first decrees to reduce taxes on property and lower duty on articles of trade, benefited mainly the wealthy. His constitution continued slave trade! While he declared that blacks would be free on landing, he returned them to white-dominated plantations. General Moise disagreed that blacks should still work for whites, and Toussaint executed him. General Dessalines warned, "France will try to make you slaves again."

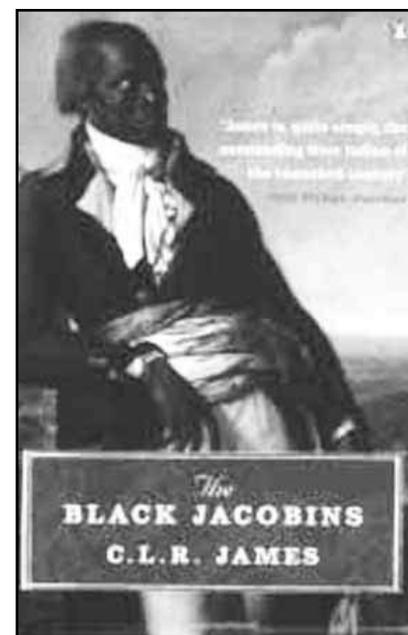
Even when Bonaparte (leader of France after the French Revolution) left France with 20,000 troops, Toussaint could not believe France was determined to reinstitute slavery. Bonaparte had convinced his troops they were fighting for the "revolution" against Toussaint, telling them he was a traitor, selling out to the British.

Slaves Fought Bonaparte

While French troops were increased to 60,000, disease and guerrilla warfare began to tip the balance in favor of the slaves. The slaves fought, hurling enormous stones down from the mountains, blocking paths, and digging pits covered with branches so that horsemen perished.

In retaliation, the French drowned hundreds of people in the Bay of LeCap, burned alive and tortured blacks. Toussaint then tried to make peace. Instead, he was arrested. Far from being intimidated by these events, Haitian slaves met increasing terror with courage and firmness.

"Mulattos" and slaves under Dessalines and Ca-



pois Death took the offensive, attacked ships, hid their boats on shores, disappeared down rivers and reappeared at sea. Lemmonier-Delafosse (a believer in slavery) documented, "What men these blacks are! I have seen a solid column, torn by grape-shot from four pieces of cannon, advance without making a retrograde step, singing; this song was worth all our republican songs." That was the November 1803 march on Le Cap. On December 31 the final declaration of Independence was read. This struggle led to the first victory against slavery. The slaves' courage and confidence in the working class is a lesson we should all learn from. ☺

RED EYE ON THE NEWS

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Cutbacks can ruin children's lives

NYT, 6/15 — Consider the... comment from... the chief of the Natamos Unified School District in Sacramento County, Calif.:

"We made the decision to close our eight elementary school libraries with a heavy heart, but our budget situation is so dire that we had no choice. We've also cut all of our health aides, eliminated busing, shortened our school year by five days, increased K-3 class sizes to 30 to 1, and issued layoff notices to about 30 percent of our teachers, classified staff and administration."

Similar decisions, potentially devastating to the lives of individuals and families and poisonous to the effort to rebuild the economy, are being made by state and local officials from one coast to the other....

When you put people out of work, you cripple the quality of life of their entire families. When you start dismantling the public schools and driving teachers from the classrooms, you damage — and in many instances cripple — the lifetime prospects of untold numbers of pupils.

Profiteers devastate, we pay later

GW, 7/2 — Capitalism has always had a neat trick of pushing inconvenient costs into the future.... BP and the other oil giants'... long-term costs to the global environment do not appear on their balance sheets or the price we pay at the pump.

Get real: if you think energy costs are out of control now, I can't wait to hear how you explain to your kids the global warming surcharge they will be asked to pay on your behalf in the not-too-distant future.

New taxes aiming at the poor

NYT, 6/22 — There are visions... of raising hundreds of millions more by way of a penny-per-ounce tax on sodas and other sweetened drinks. There is also an eternal desire in Albany to get the people

who can least afford it to feed their money into video slot machines at local racetracks.

The official line is that taxes on tobacco and soda are principally health measures; the extra revenue for the state is but a pleasant side benefit. Sure it is....

It is so much easier to raise money by taxing you for doing things you shouldn't be doing in the first place — and then assuring you that it's for your own good.

It is also so much easier because... those most likely to be taxed are poor people. Almost by definition, they wield the least political power.

US hires murderers, saves 11%

GW, 7/2 — The Obama administration has awarded \$220m in new contracts to the military contractor formerly known as Blackwater to provide security in Afghanistan. This is despite accusations against the company of murder and indiscriminate killings of civilians in Iraq and investigations into alleged corruption....

Leon Panetta, the head of the CIA, defended the new contracts by saying the company, which changed its name to Xe Services as part of an image makeover, has "shaped up their act...."

"Unfortunately, there are few companies that provide that kind of security," Panetta said Xe Services had underbid rivals by \$26m.

White House 'transparency' a joke

NYT, 6/25 — Here at the Caribou on Pennsylvania Avenue, and a few other nearby coffee shops, White House officials have met hundreds of times over the last 18 months with prominent K Street lobbyists — members of the same industry that President Obama has derided for what he calls its "outsized influence" in the capital....

But because the discussions are not taking place at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, they are not subject to disclosure on the visitors' log that the White House releases as part of its pledge to be the "most transparent presidential administration in history...."

Some lobbyists say that they routinely get e-mail messages from White House staff members' personal accounts rather than from their official White House accounts, which can become subject to public review....

And while Mr. Obama has imposed restrictions on hiring lobbyists for government posts, the admin-



istration has used waivers and recusals more than two dozen times to appoint lobbyists to political positions....

"It makes a great sound bite for the White House to demonize us lobbyists, but at the end of the day, they're still going to call us."

To end oil spills, end profit system

creators.com, 6/18 — Obama said, "A few months ago, I approved a proposal to consider new, limited offshore drilling under the assurance that it would be absolutely safe — that the proper technology would be in place and the necessary precautions would be taken. That obviously was not the case on the Deepwater Horizon rig, and I want to know why."

He already knows why! It's the same ideological... assumption that the unfettered pursuit of multinational corporation profits would somehow serve the public good. In every area of federal governance, the story is the same — the mammoth corporations, through their lobbyists and campaign contributions, end up controlling the government agencies ostensibly regulating the activities of the military-industrial, health, financial and communications complexes. Why be surprised that the oil conglomerates are also in bed with their pretend Washington regulators?....

The war that needs to be fought and won is against corporate dominance of every important aspect of our political culture.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Obama Setting New Record for Racist Deportations

As part of the ruling class's plan to step up racist terror against all workers, Barack Obama — whose election as the first black President supposedly signaled an era of a sharp decline in racism — has set a goal of deporting 400,000 immigrant workers in 2010, an all-time high. This increase in ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) terror represents a steady trend over the last eight years — a 132% increase in spending on immigration enforcement and a 142% increase in deportations. That totals over 2.6 million racist deportations, two thirds of which (1.7 million) were non-criminal deportations.

Representing the clearest form of U.S.-style fascism, these raids are designed to intimidate Latino workers, both documented and undocumented, in order to drive down wages and further disorganize the working class. In one brazen example of the anti-working class nature of these raids ICE thugs — spurred on by the company — raided Smithfield Pork's North Carolina plant in 2007 to break a workers' unionizing drive. To drive the point home, seven months later they raided the local neighborhoods. Since then workplace and neighborhood raids have been common. Prior to the 2010 immigrants' rights march in Washington, D.C., Obama had ICE raid D.C. area restaurants and neighborhoods to intimidate Latino workers.

Deadly Immigrant Prisons

At any one time, ICE imprisons around 32,000 immigrants to await deportation. In January 2009, of the 32,000 inmates 18,690 had no criminal conviction. ICE uses 363 detention sites nationwide to handle its massive prisoner load. With no judge to appeal to, and nothing forcing authorities to press charges, immigrants can remain imprisoned for a very long time. In 2009, one prisoner had been jailed for over five years!

A 2009 Amnesty International report described conditions in these prisons as beyond the bounds of international human rights standards and even below ICE's "official" deplorable "guidelines." Despite most prisoners being non-criminal offenders, inmates are handcuffed, shackled and forced into overcrowded cells. Frequently a thousand miles from their homes, inmates have no immediate rights to a phone call or a lawyer, sometimes leaving their families not knowing their whereabouts for months.

Many complaints have been filed regarding the non-existent medical care at these facilities. Amnesty International even noted that from 2004-2009, 74 prisoners died in ICE custody due to the hellish "health" conditions. In Arizona, pregnant women are shackled to their beds during and after childbirth. Many don't even find out what happened to their children until days after giving birth and are not allowed to nurse them until many months later.

Anti-Immigrant Hysteria Builds Deadly Racism

The anti-immigrant hysteria stoked by the media and politicians to support the massive ICE terror operation has led to increases in anti-immigrant, anti-Latino hate groups and violence. The Southern Poverty Law Center reported that from 2003-2007, when CNN's Lou Dobbs began his racist anti-immigrant rants, hate crimes against Latino workers rose 40%!

This increase in racism and violence has been encouraged by a criminal injustice system that doesn't view murders of Latino workers as a crime. Four teenagers who brutally beat to death 25-year-old Luis Ramirez in Shenandoah, PA in 2008, while shouting racist slurs, received only misdemeanor convictions. A month later, when Jeffrey Conroy stabbed Marcelo Lucero to death on Long Island, he was acquitted of murder charges, receiving only a first-degree manslaughter conviction. The trial revealed that Conroy and his friends had regularly engaged in racist attacks on Latino workers.

In May 2010, Seattle police brutally beat a Lat-

ino man while shouting racist epithets, only stopping when they realized he was "not the guy they were looking for." Despite the incident being videotaped, no charges were filed against the officers. Later that month Border Patrol agents murdered Anastasio Hernandez with a taser in San Diego. In June a Border Patrol agent in El Paso, TX shot and killed 15-year-old Sergio Huereka while he stood on the Mexican side of the border. INS has shown no intention of investigating or charging any of these officers.

No Borders for Bosses' \$, Only For Workers

Under capitalism, investments and those that control them are free to travel throughout the world seeking workers to exploit. Only the working class is bound within national borders and severely punished for moving to find work. Capitalists control national borders in order to control the working class.

Capitalists use racist immigration laws worldwide for similar purposes. In the U.S., Latin American workers are targeted; in France it's workers from Northern Africa; in Germany it's Turkish workers; in China it's workers from Southeast Asia. In all cases these bosses' laws are used to drive these populations further underground, making them easier to exploit. The end result is a divided working class and super-profits for the bosses as they use anti-immigrant racism to drive down all wages.

Capitalists punish immigrant workers, but it's their system that creates the conditions forcing workers to search the globe for work. European imperialism destroyed African economies with over 200 years of theft. Yet now the European countries complain that African workers looking to escape mass poverty at home are migrating to Europe. The mass immigration of Latino workers to the U.S. began 30 years ago as U.S.-led neoliberal economic policies destroyed the economies of Latin American states and the livelihoods of millions of Latino workers.

Anti-Immigrant Laws Attack all Workers

Racist terror has been the preferred weapon of choice for the U.S. ruling class in its struggle to keep workers divided and oppressed. Immigration laws are designed to terrorize not just immigrant workers but all super-exploited workers, who now have to fear police round-ups or being beaten or murdered by racist thugs.

The new immigration laws passed under Clinton further institutionalize and intensify the fas-

cist U.S. police state, the world's most oppressive, with over 2.6 million prisoners. Obama has cleverly used workers' outrage at Arizona's efforts to massively arrest Latino immigrants in order to build support for his fascist Dream Act.

The Act would force immigrants to turn themselves into the police for cataloguing with the "promise" of college. But since most can't afford tuition, they'd be headed for the military to become cannon fodder for imperialist wars.

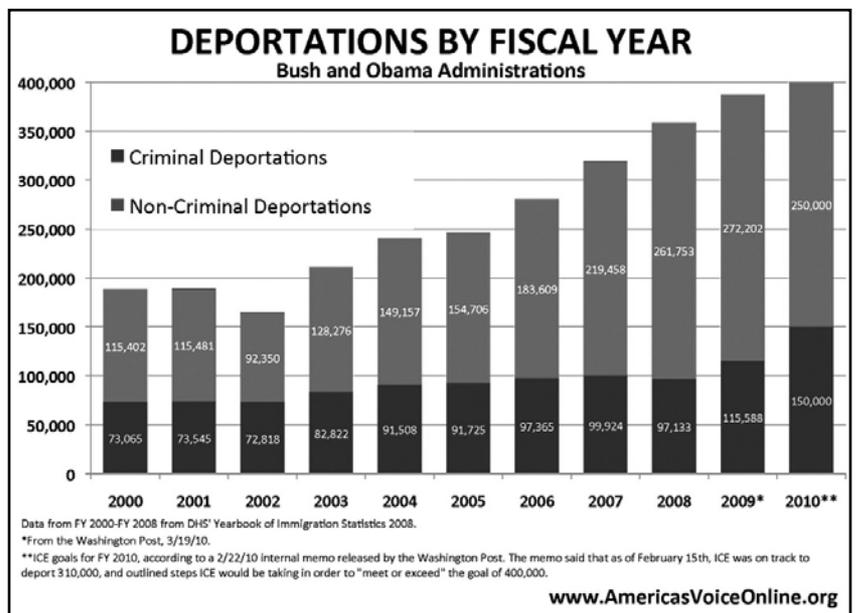
And even the "promise" of citizenship is phony — 4,000 vets were deported last year, with another 4,000 slated for this year.

The bosses' hope the Dream Act will both build nationalism among immigrants while maintaining the capitalists' carefully-cultivated system of anti-immigrant racism. Obama's actions make it clear that he wants both the Dream Act and intensifying police terror.

Workers have taken to the streets by the hundreds of thousands in the U.S. to voice their opposition to this new Apartheid but, like Bush, Obama has shown that his allegiance lies with ruling-class exploiters, not with workers. Racism is capitalism's lifeline, its source of super-profits and its primary weapon against the working class. Still, U.S. workers could learn from the international fight-back against anti-immigrant racism. In France undocumented immigrant workers struck for nearly nine months to gain "legal" status. In China migrant workers have shut down auto and electrical plants over low wages and horrific conditions.

But reforms can't solve workers' problems. Whatever reforms workers might win are taken away when capitalist crises impel bosses to maintain profits at workers' expense. Only by building the PLP to eventually lead a communist revolution will workers be able to live in dignity, not in fear. Only then will we be able to smash all bosses' borders and unite as one international working class.✊

(for sources, go to www.plp.org)



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