

# CHALLENGE



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## Anaheim: Defying Cops' Racist Terror

# WORKERS, YOUTH REBEL!



**ANAHEIM, CA, July 27** — The chants began with "Let Us In! Let Us In!" but quickly changed to "Police Say Get Back, We Say Fight Back" and "No Justice, No Peace, No Racist Police!" as more and more people pressed into the small lobby outside the Anaheim City Council chambers on July 24. As a hearing on recent police killings was starting, PLP and members of the community joined relatives grieving for Manuel Díaz and Joel Acevedo. Both were murdered by the Anaheim police over the previous weekend.

On Saturday, July 21, immediately after Díaz was shot twice from behind, neighborhood friends and families confronted the police. The kkkops attacked the militant crowd — including entire families with children and babies in strollers — using rubber bullets and police dogs.

Then, on Tuesday, Anaheim workers and youth fought back! PL'ers joined the workers and students who refused to "ask" the cops for permission to voice their frustration. Instead, we demanded the jailing of killer cops. The crowd stormed City Hall and confronted the police and Anaheim council members and later marched to the Anaheim police station, blocking traffic and taking over the streets.

People pounded on cop cars and defiantly gathered at street intersections. Back at City Hall others yelled in the faces of cops and some angry youth bumped into the police line. The cops raised their batons and hit teenagers as young as 13, many shielding themselves with their skateboards.

One cop responded to teenagers throwing dirt clods by aiming his handgun at one youth. The crowd surged forward and pushed into the street. A young woman, a relative of one of the men shot execution-style, angrily stalked back and forth along the line of cops, yelling accusations of murder in their faces and jabbing her finger at each of their chests.

The large multiracial crowd grew to about 1,000 and continued to chant

and confront the cops late into the night. These workers showed no fear in taking on these racist killers.

### Capitalism's Austerity Attacks Latino Workers

Working-class families have much to be angry about in Anaheim. This racially diverse city, with 53 percent of its population Latino, suffer the same high jobless rates, exorbitant housing costs and vicious austerity measures affecting education and other social services as the rest of California. While Disneyland and other corporations continue to receive large subsidies and public monies, working-class families employed at the "Happiest Place on Earth" get paid poverty wages, and are terrorized by trigger-happy cops. As exists worldwide, capitalism in crisis has only one slogan: "Save the Bosses, Banks and Corporations — Screw the Workers."

Working-class communities like Anaheim live under repressive policies, anti-immigrant racism and fascist terror that use fear and direct violence to silence residents' class anger. It's no accident that Anaheim was California's testing ground for the federal government's racist Secure Communities, a program that combines the forces of the FBI and Immigration and Customs Enforcement in

order to more effectively deport immigrant workers.

Like the rest of the U.S., California's Latino youth are twice as likely compared to whites to be sentenced to prison. Black workers are six times more likely to be incarcerated. In addition to being imprisoned in both the state jails and in immigrant detention centers, Latino men in Anaheim are murdered frequently on the streets by cops.

Since 2007, these fascist Anaheim cops have murdered 16 people; nine were Latino. With the capitalist crisis deepening here, this racist trend is rapidly increasing. The killing of Díaz and Acevedo brought Anaheim police shootings in 2012 to six; five were Latino.

Many in the crowd asked about our signs, enlarged pictures of the CHALLENGE "WANTED For MURDER!" front page that condemned recent racist killings

nation-wide. People readily agreed that police departments systematically terrorize black and brown communities and criticized the city's suggestions that the recent tragic murders were the result of "a few bad cops." Many took CHALLENGE, open to the idea that capitalism is at the root of these racist cop killings.

By Tuesday night's end, 24 people were arrested and scores were injured. Driving past the many police blockades placed throughout the city, PL'ers smelled the smoke and saw the fires. We talked with some teenagers who lifted their shirts to show us the bruises the rubber bullets left on their bodies. They said the cops fired at them without warning.

### Cops 'Protect and Serve' Bosses Profits

If they had any previous doubts about capitalism's kkkops and courts, these youth now have no illusions; they know that the Anaheim police don't "protect and serve" their community, but instead only protect and serve the interests of the bosses and their profits.

In California, unions and politicians are promoting Governor Brown's "Tax Initiative" as a way to pacify working-class fight-back at our schools and jobsites by focusing on voting. Likewise, in Anaheim politicians and local religious figures are trying to win over residents with promises of federal investigations, policy changes or electing Latinos to the City Council. Many of these public figures are condemning the "violence" by protesters.

PL'ers will continue to support and stand side-by-side with our militant working-class sisters and brothers in Anaheim who showed no fear in fighting capitalism's fascism and racist killer cops. We will continue to distribute CHALLENGE and build relationships, explaining to our friends why capitalism always needs rac-



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# U.S. War Machine Tops All Atrocities

Capitalist individualism and its culture of violence fueled the recent massacre in Aurora, Colorado. James Holmes, a loner entranced by movie mayhem, shot 70 people, fatally wounding 12 — a deranged and despicable act.

As the bosses' media focused attention on his carnage, Holmes became the nation's most notorious criminal. But there are far more lethal threats facing our class — from the capitalists themselves. Holmes' mass murder, as horrific as it was, pales in comparison to the atrocities the U.S. ruling class routinely commits against its own workers. It is put in the shade by the U.S. war machine that mows down workers in the Middle East to secure the imperialists' profits.

While pundits cry that gun control is the only way to stop Holmes' brand of freelance slaughter, capitalism kills exponentially more people without breaking a single law. Profiteers create mass poverty. Lifesaving health care is denied to tens of millions unable to pay the insurance and drug companies. Massive racist unemployment, an in-

tegral part of the system's perpetual boom-and-bust crises, sends millions more to an early grave. Racist cop murderers in New York and Anaheim, California, to name but the latest, sustain the rulers' profit-making by terrorizing black and Latino workers and youth.

If we want people to treat each other as sisters and brothers, we must destroy the system that breeds these horrors and creates ticking time bombs out of people like Holmes. In short, the profit system has got to go. We need a communist society, free of bosses, exploitation, racism, sexism and profits. We need a workers' society led by a mass, revolutionary communist party to guarantee that our class will share all the value we create, according to need.

"Gun control" can't be the answer in a country whose profit-makers are the world's biggest suppliers of military weapons and who invade more countries than the rest of the world combined.

Talk about mass murder! For eight years, President Bill Clinton ordered the U.S. Air Force to enforce sanctions that denied food and medicine to workers in Iraq. Besides killing more than a million Iraqis, the sanctions paved the way for George H.W. Bush's 1991 invasion. George W. Bush's 2003 "shock and awe" invasion killed a million more Iraqis. Then, Barack Obama's occupation and maintenance of U.S. military bases served to protect Exxon Mobil's seizure of the country's biggest oil fields.

Remote-controlled U.S. aircraft drones currently liquidate dozens of workers at a time in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen and Somalia — another example of racism on a global scale. Most are civilians, which doesn't stop Obama from taking credit and pride in ordering the hits personally.

Now the U.S. Army has issued a directive that justifies slaying innocents on a scale beyond the imagination of solitary madmen like Holmes. On July 18, the Army's top general, Ray Odierno, sent a "doctrinal publication" called "Civilian Casualty Mitigation" down the chain of command. While warning that killing non-combatants can create anti-U.S. feeling, the document essentially gives the go-ahead to the practice when the stakes are high enough. Odierno's death warrant reads in part:

*In most cases, civilian casualties are a type of collateral damage.... [that] is not... excessive in light of the overall military advantage anticipated from the attack.... When conducting combined arms maneuver against an enemy force, the opportunity to take decisive action against the enemy may take precedence over protecting civilians.*

Preventing Iran from competing for Mideast oil exports no doubt meets Obama's and Odierno's profit-driven "ethical" test. The liberal Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported on July 29:

*U.S. National Security Adviser Tom Donilon shared Washington's contingency plans for a possible attack on Iran with Israel's PM [Netanyahu], according to a senior American official.... Donilon sought to make clear that the United States is seriously preparing for the possibility that negotiations will reach a dead end and military action will become necessary.*

A separate piece in the same Haaretz issue said, "Romney's senior national security aide Dan Senor told reporters that the Republican presidential candidate would 'respect' Israel's decision if it were to 'take action on its own in order to stop Iran from attaining nuclear weapons.'" Romney would have Israel do the dirty work. For his part, Obama recently offered to bribe fascist Israeli rulers with advanced weaponry if they de-

layed a strike on Iran's nuclear sites until after the U.S. presidential election in November.

Obama and Romney may both be posturing to demonstrate their "toughness" on Iran to U.S. voters, but their positions are more than mere show. Hundreds of thousands of workers in Iran could become "worthwhile collateral damage" in a U.S. or Israeli assault on Iran's potential nukes. Five years ago, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) cautioned:

*It is impossible to predict in advance the number of people that would be killed and injured in a full attack on Iran's nuclear facilities....[E]ven a narrowly targeted military plan would have severe public health impacts.... The Esfahan Nuclear Technology Center.... is... only four kilometers from the city of Esfahan with one and a half million people.*

PSR warns of the "potential to kill nearby populations similar to the accidental explosion of the chemical plant and release of chlorine gas in Bhopal, India." Obama's unholy "collateral damage" doctrine would sanction these murdered Iranians' sacrifices for the sake of Exxon Mobil's profits. This policy is the heir of President Jimmy Carter's 1979 doctrine that U.S. oil interests must be guaranteed by any means necessary, including armed force. Such are the murderous doctrines of the "lesser-evil" Democrats.

Capitalism means the murder of workers. The Progressive Labor Party advances international class war against these rulers. We're fighting back on five continents to organize against racist terror and lead workers to a communist future.

This includes South Asia, where women workers in PLP lead the struggle to rebuild villages ravaged by so-called natural disasters and worsened by capitalist profiteers.

It includes Haiti, where the Party is organizing against the cholera epidemic set off by invading UN forces.

It includes Brooklyn and the Bronx, New York, where PL'ers are leading the fight against the murderous racist cops.

It includes Palestine-Israel, where Party members are fighting U.S.-backed Israeli billionaires who wipe out workers' villages to build profit-making estates for the rich.

It includes Anaheim, where PL'ers are supporting rebels against racist police killings.

It includes Oaxaca, Mexico, where PL teachers helped lead the fight against government union-busting. In Mexico City, PLP led a struggle against government policies that flooded workers' neighborhood.

Out of these struggles, workers are joining the revolutionary PLP to build a mass party that will ultimately wipe out the capitalist scourge that butchers the international working class. Our Party will usher in a communist society to free our class from racism and sexism, poverty and mass unemployment, exploitation and imperialist war — forever! ☺

## 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.





# Marchers Indict Mayor and NYPD for Racist Murders



**BRONX, NY, July 28** — On July 19, hundreds rallied and marched on Bronx's 47th precinct demanding the conviction of Richard Haste, the cop who murdered black teenager Ramarley Graham in his own home on February 2. This was the 18th consecutive weekly vigil commemorating each of the years young Ramarley was alive. Once again Ramarley's parents were militantly out front.

Due to consistent mass, multiracial pressure, Bronx District Attorney Johnson finally indicted Haste, but only on manslaughter charges. The masses have been demanding murder indictments, not only for Haste but for all racist kkkops who supported him.

PLP comrades and others have also called sharply for indictments of Mayor Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Kelly, the primary ruling-class architects of the racist terror that has slaughtered one black worker every other month in NYC since last November!

Beginning with our brother Ramarley's funeral, week in and week out a growing number of PL'ers and friends have become deeply involved in working closely with workers in the neighborhood and in mobilizing our friends for regular mass actions. Because of the trust we've developed, we've been increasingly able to raise our ideas for multiracial unity against fascist terror, reliance on the working class, not politicians and for communist revolution as the only solution.

Each week PLP distributed CHALLENGEs and PLP leaflets en masse while also regularly carrying a Party banner. During most marches people have often shouted, "Give the teacher the mikel!" and one young comrade has led chants against fascist genocide and for fight-back uniting women and men, workers and students, black, Latino, Asian and white.

But nationalists, pseudo leftists, lawyers, preachers and politicians have also constantly hammered various pro-capitalist, opportunist positions, confusing many honest protesters. In effect,

they're laying down the gauntlet for us to widely expand our own leadership in class struggle, with mass CHALLENGE sales and deepening ties with everyone we bring to and meet in the struggle.

This final vigil, march and rally showed clearly how the bosses are working overtime to co-opt and derail anti-fascist struggle. The Nation of Islam speaker urged everyone to kiss the backside of the system: "Do not be disrespectful to those in power above us. We need more strong politicians." And, in effect, he complimented our work and presence with blatant anti-communism: "We are here only for young Ramarley and his family. Do not try to attach your agenda to this agenda!"

The New Black Panther Party speaker passionately summoned black people alone to rise up in self-defense, ending with the chant, "Black Power, Black Power," picked up by some in the crowd. But that refrain rang particularly hollow, given the thoroughly multiracial make-up of the hundreds rallying outside Ramarley's home.

However, PLP's deepening involvement in this fight and principled struggle for PLP's ideas guaranteed our opportunity for rebuttal. Immediately one young PL'er spoke, contradicting virtually every reactionary point the nationalist had pushed! He concluded with a call for unity with the lockout of Con Ed workers, then leading the sharpest fight against the ruling class that organizes fascist terror. He challenged every anti-racist present to join the protracted struggle for communist revolution.

After the rally at the precinct, many participants marched to the Graham family's church for another rally where capitalist bigwigs were the featured speakers. Led off by the bosses' media personality Al Sharpton — who years ago informed on black leaders for the FBI — they focused on diverting us into the suicidal gutter of electoral politics. Brooklyn Councilman Williams warmly introduced City Comptroller Liu who unabashedly pushed his mayoral bid.

These are the same politicians who hadn't shown their faces previously or at the demonstration that night and had pushed for a silent Father's Day demonstration on 5th Avenue. Imagine if that march had had the militancy of those led by Ramarley's family!

However, ultimately the working class is very sharp. If we redouble our efforts, more and more will respond to PLP's ideas and join to bury this racist ruling class. While listening to the crap emanating from the pulpit, a comrade quietly slipped a CHALLENGE and a PL leaflet into the hands of a middle-aged black worker. During several speeches he quietly read the entire leaflet, then folded it carefully, placed it in his backpack along with the CHALLENGE and walked out of the church with his cane — another of the system's victims who may join capitalism's gravediggers for the most joyful funeral in history.✪

## Anaheim: Defying Cops

*continued from front page*

ism and state violence (here and worldwide) to defend its profit and power by super-exploiting these victims of racism and trying to divide the working class.

From Brooklyn and the Bronx, NY, to Sanford, Florida, and Anaheim, workers must take to the streets and fight back against the bosses' racism and kkkops. Progressive Labor Party is on the streets, in the schools, on our jobs, in the military — building our class anger and our Party to the fight for communist revolution. Only this can destroy the system that oppresses our class and then erect a society run by and for workers, the creators of all value.✪





# Capitalism Destroys Detroit and Education



**DETROIT, MICHIGAN, July 30** — Comrades from the Midwest and East Coast joined thousands of teachers at the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) convention in Detroit to expose the dangers of supporting the ruling class liberals. New and veteran comrades joined together for four days of forums, leafleting, selling CHALLENGEs, and meeting teachers nationwide. The peak of our Summer Project was direct political action at the AFT against Vice President Joe Biden (see box).

## Capitalism Destroyed Detroit

On the first night, a comrade from Detroit held a meeting to talk about the current state of Detroit. Many of the people of Detroit relied on jobs in the automotive industry. Due to the collapse of the auto industry in the 1980s and the recession that followed in the 1990s, factories closed down and many workers were laid off. The initial cut-backs disproportionately affected black workers. The unions in these factories did not fight back against these racist layoffs. As a result, white workers were attacked and lost their jobs as well.

According to our comrade from Detroit, the factories were moved down South and to Mexico where the labor is cheaper and union activity is low. It was a move clearly to maximize profits. Whatever happens to the workers left behind is of no concern to the auto bosses.

Due to the recession, Detroit has suffered greatly. The automotive plant closings led to a sharp decrease in tax revenue. As a result, Detroit 'sresidents have had to deal with high taxes and cuts to public services such as the fire department, transit system and its schools.

As we drove through the streets of Detroit, we saw the aftermath of the destruction for ourselves. Many of the buildings were either run down or abandoned. Supermarkets are located beyond city limits. There were areas where there was nothing but huge fields of overgrown grass. Some comrades went to Henry Ford High School to sell CHALLENGEs and noticed that the football field, tennis courts and track field were covered with weeds and overgrown grass.

## Fighting Racism in and out of the Classroom

The planning and execution of the Summer Project by the youth leadership of PLP led to the distribution of over 1,500 CHALLENGEs and over 5,000 leaflets that exposed how the capitalists have destroyed Detroit; how the "liberal" Democrats are just as dangerous as the Republicans; and how Diane Ravitch is a ruling-class tool and an enemy of the working class.

Many people, visitors and AFT delegates alike, took notice of our literature and held discussions with us. As the convention went on, some people eagerly took the next piece of literature or could be seen reading CHALLENGE intently. In addition, we received 242 signatures on a petition supporting the struggle in New York to find justice for Shantel Davis, a 23-year-old black woman who was

murdered by NYPD detective Philip Atkins.

A forum was held on the limits of unionism, showing the advancements in education past communist revolutions have made. There was also discussion about how the communist revolution PLP is organizing for will be set up to meet the needs of all students.

The horrors in Detroit and the attacks on our children's education are just a few of many reasons why capitalism fails the working class. What workers need is communism, an egalitarian society based on need, not profit. Progressive Labor Party fights for this goal. Join us in our struggle!✊

## Angry Parents, School Workers Condemn Racist Budget Cuts

**CHICAGO, IL, July 11** — Progressive Labor Party and angry teachers, students, parents and workers came out to Kennedy-King College for one of the three planned Chicago Public School (CPS) budget meetings for the 2012-2013 school year. The racist proposed budget didn't do much of anything to meet the needs of children in Chicago, just like all other school budgets in working-class communities. It was evident that the budget in Chicago, like many places around the U.S., had significantly less money to use for our students.

The imperialist needs of the U.S. ruling class to maintain oil profits in the Middle East has led to millions of deaths of our working-class brothers and sisters in Iraq and Afghanistan and the wholesale destruction of social services and education domestically. The presentation lasted about thirty minutes, and the board then announced that there would be two hours for the public to speak and ask questions.

The auditorium was ringed by about 12 CPS and Kennedy-King security officers. One by one, teachers and parents and school workers came up to the microphone to angrily denounce the cuts. Teacher after teacher told of over 160 schools with

no libraries in them, while Chicago Schools CEO Jean-Claude Brizard makes over \$250,000 a year, plus bonuses. A janitor said they should stop layoffs, reporting that the remaining janitors are being over-worked, which leads to unhealthy and unsanitary conditions for our children.

Parents spoke about the CPS's disrespect of the teachers and the students. Our children's schools don't have heat in the winter or air conditioning in the summer as temperatures reach 100 degrees outside and 110 degrees inside. There's no money for arts and science programs, but plenty for Chicago KKKops and metal detectors to make the schools resemble a prison.

Parents and community members saw that the funding for local public schools goes down but money for the failed charter school system goes up. As they took the mic to address the racist school board, almost every speaker had CHALLENGE in their hand, received from PL members outside the door.

We talked about how capitalism, no matter who is in charge, can never truly educate our children and fulfill the needs of the working class; only communism can. One comrade exposed the CPS's attacks:

*Not only will these cuts*

*hurt every child attending a public school in the city of Chicago, but these budget cuts are racist. Is there one school on the Gold Coast [rich area of Chicago] getting a budget decrease or that has no library or proper heating...No! Are any of your children in any of these charter schools or any public schools on the South or West Side?...No! And why are 95% of the charter schools and school closings on the Southside and the Westside? Does it have something to do with the fact that the Westside and the Southside are majority black and Latino? So this school board is RACIST!*

We brought a communist message to the meeting that wasn't there before. It was no longer about just increasing spending on public school children or supporting this tax or that candidate in the dead-end electoral system.

Instead, the community heard the message that if you truly want change that you must smash capitalism and fight for communism. Joining PLP is the first step toward a society that educates every child and provides them with a safe environment and a better future in which to grow.✊

## Attack Biden

On the day of Vice President Joe Biden's arrival, PLP formed two groups. One stayed outside the hall, distributed CHALLENGEs and a leaflet titled "Democratic Party Attacks Education Workers." Young PL'ers marched up and down, holding signs reading, "Don't Vote. Revolt!" while chanting loud enough for workers inside and outside to hear.

The second group passed security and snuck a big banner inside that read, "Obama, Biden, Romney: Education Reform for Imperialism. Fight Back with Communism!" With the banner unfurled, we marched together through the convention hall, chanting, "Democrats and Republicans, all the same. Racist terror is the name of their game!"

The Secret Service and Detroit police grabbed our banner. We pushed back to stand our ground. Young PL'ers seized the banner back, raised it high, all chanting. While they were shoving us out the building, we were chanting even louder, "Racist Biden you can't hide. We charge you with genocide!" We chanted for all of the workers Biden and Obama have murdered worldwide in the name of U.S. imperialism, but the union leadership edited this out of their video. PLP was a striking multi-racial group of young teachers and students in a crowd of majority white delegates.

New comrades stepped up to take responsibility for the Party. There was a qualitative difference in many of our newer comrades after this Project. Many commented on how they realized we have no choice but to fight.

One student used the word fascism to describe the conditions for workers worldwide. He said he had never been taught that word in school and now sees exactly what fascism means. Everyone came away from the weekend politically stronger and more committed to advance the fight for communist revolution.



# Only Workers' Power Can Solve AIDS Epidemic

**WASHINGTON, DC, July 24** — Several thousand workers and students from around the world marched to the White House today to demand that bosses and politicians take the steps needed to stop the racist AIDS epidemic worldwide. PL'ers distributed about 2,000 CHALLENGEs and communist pamphlets, arguing that the bosses and politicians would never serve the workers' needs. Communist revolution is the only path to victory against AIDS. Many people responded with interest and were pleasantly surprised to meet serious revolutionaries. Many asked us to contact them for further discussions.

The "We Can End AIDS Mobilization" united a multi-racial group of activists led by people living with HIV attending the International AIDS Conference. Organizations mobilized thousands of workers to travel to DC to march along with thousands from Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, the Russian Federation, and many other countries in an inspiring display of international solidarity.

Nevertheless, a revolutionary strategy will be needed to stop the epidemic. The bosses may wish to limit the spread and severity of the disease when it actually debilitates its workforce, but their relationship to profit always prevents solving the complex HIV/AIDS epidemic. Capitalism reinforces the epidemic every day. AIDS activists must turn away from piecemeal, NGO-driven, partial if well-meaning initiatives, and tackle the even harder task of making communist revolution if we are to succeed in eradicating HIV/AIDS.

The march demanded cheaper HIV drugs, taxes on stock transactions to pay for HIV programs, needle exchange programs, stable affordable housing, reproductive rights for women, and an end to mass imprisonment of blacks, Latinos, and immigrants. En route to the White House, the march made stops at UPS to condemn its bosses' homophobia. We also protested Wells Fargo in response to the local campaign of the Criminal Injustice Committee of Occupy DC that attacks the bank's investments in profit-making prisons and support for mass incarceration.

The demands of the march could achieve small improvements. The targets (UPS, Wells Fargo, and the White House) are certainly among the enemies



of the working class. But the AIDS epidemic will only end when workers abolish capitalism and take power. An egalitarian communist society will provide the conditions of life and the power to allocate resources to care for workers' health.

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, thrives in the cesspool of capitalism's racism and poverty. It disproportionately affects people who are poor, imprisoned, use drugs, sell their bodies, and are gay. It is a major destabilizer of black communities. The bosses' neglect of this disease is racist to the core, both in the U.S. and worldwide.

In the U.S., black men and women account for close to half of all new HIV infections. Data shows that this is not a function of personal behavior but a function of racist attacks, including incarceration, homelessness, unemployment, stigma and segregation. The marchers raised these issues which are largely missing from UN reports and plenary speakers at the AIDS conference.

The "war on drugs" that criminalizes drug possession and uses stop-and-frisk profiling techniques and imprisons so many black men and women also drives the HIV epidemic. The discrimination against homosexual people or drug users create shame and fear that keep people from seeking care and from advocating for social change. The fighting spirit of the marches broke down these barriers and brought everyone into the struggle, including thousands of unionized women who capitalism forces to sell their bodies in India. They were not allowed into the U.S. but rallied at the same time in India. The march provided a small glimpse of a mobilized international working class.

What the working class needs is a revolutionary party to organize against and to smash capitalism — the cause of this racist AIDS epidemic — once and for all. Progressive Labour Party is doing just that. Join us! ☺

## CHALLENGE A Weapon vs. Racist Hospital Cuts



**BROOKLYN, NY, July 16** — Shouts of "Save our patients! Save our jobs!" rang out as hundreds of workers, with red t-shirts flashing in the hot sun, picketed yet again to protest downsizing and layoffs in the Downstate inner-city hospital. Inside, state politicians, SUNY and Downstate bigwigs met. When they came out, the politicians found themselves on the hot seat about racist cuts in jobs and services. Within a week hundreds of pink slips were sent out between the Downstate and Long Island College Hospital campuses of SUNY Downstate.

### Are We Winning?

Can we win this fight against powers from Albany to Wall Street? In the 1960s, mostly black

women hospital workers decided they were no longer going to stand working for \$40/week, below poverty-level wages. For years they organized, picketed, struck, defied courts and police (and sometimes 1199 union leaders) and went to jail, but finally won union representation, a living wage and benefits. Now it looks like the bosses want to push us — still predominantly black, Latino and women workers — back to subsistence wages.

### What Doesn't Kill You Makes you Stronger

There is another kind of victory we can win under capitalism if we have the will to engage in the kind of all-out struggle those workers did. We can become a more savvy, active and united working-

class force. Getting involved in this struggle can expand our limits, get us out of our ruts. It can help us identify our enemies: the wealthy and their politicians, courts, cops, media and union hierarchies. It can help us identify our friends. At our June 28 rally, we united workers, the community and three different unions. This multi-racial unity consisted of women and men, black, white and Latino, from professional and non-professional departments.

Taking a step further, we can look beyond our own hospital to see that our fight is the same as that of workers and patients at Brookdale, or Cook County in Chicago.

Taking another step we may feel kinship with the struggle of the ConEd workers who were locked out because they refuse to accept give-backs or even the struggle in our neighborhood against the racist police murder of 23-year-old Shantel Davis mere blocks from our hospital. We could come to realize that workers in Haiti, Egypt, Nigeria or China are fighting the same struggle.

### Take It To Another Level

Right now you are reading CHALLENGE, the newspaper of the revolutionary communist PLP. CHALLENGE does not waver from pointing out the enemies and friends of the working class.

We keep our eyes on the prize of finally overthrowing the wealthy ruling classes of the world to run things as the working class, for the working class. Read CHALLENGE regularly. Help distribute it to friends, family and co-workers. Write for it. Join a CHALLENGE discussion group. Contact us at PLP.org. ☺



# LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



**BROOKLYN, NY**—Under the leadership of PLP, workers, teachers and students from New York and New Jersey rallied during their weekly Vigil against the racist kkkop killing of young Shantel Davis (more next issue).

## Jenga and Dialectics: From Small Steps to Giant Leaps

Who would've thought that Jenga, a kid's game, would be a great way to introduce dialectical materialism? In our recent study group, we illustrated the idea of quantitative change leading to qualitative change by collectively removing and stacking Jenga blocks. For every block that we removed we changed the quantity of the blocks.

After removing and stacking over twenty blocks, everyone was nervous and on the edge of their seats. For each block removed the tower became increasingly unstable, moving closer to a qualitative change. Eventually, after removing the 25th block, the tower came crashing down. It crossed a tipping point (dialectically and literally) and went from many quantitative changes to a qualitative change in an instant!

While everyone wanted to blame the last person for the collapse of the tower, we recognized that it was the collective effort of the group with the movement of each block that led to the tower's qualitative collapse. The game clearly showed that small changes can lead to big changes.

Although we might not see qualitative changes as fast as we'd want to see them, small steps can eventually lead to giant leaps. So as communists we must realize that every march we go to, every study group we have and every person we win to the Party is like a block being nudged or removed from the Jenga tower of capitalism. Ultimately, the qualitative change will be the destruction of capitalism through communist revolution.

*Red youth*

## Hispaniola's Tourism A Capitalist Killer

There is an underlying pain that belies the physical beauty of this island and friendliness of the people who comprise Hispaniola. Haiti and the Dominican Republic (DR) inhabit it. The goal of workers here should be communism. To reach this goal, international unity of workers with the leadership of the PLP is vital. No other way exists for our class to avoid the calamities capitalism imposes on us.

Tourism has become a major source of foreign investment and profit. DR has been a tourist destination for over 100 years. Only in the past 15 years has tourism so increased that it has become first an industry and then the largest industry in DR. With this growth, tourism also employs the largest number of workers in DR. Now impoverished Haiti wants to copy this model. Why?

A brief look at the tourist industry in DR and the impact it has on its workers in particular and the country as a whole can explain why. Today, almost 200,000 workers are in the "formal" economy. Many more work "off the books." Most of the "informal" work in DR is in tourism. Those directly employed are subjected to low wages (RD\$58/hour or about US\$1.50/hour) with little or no ben-

efits. Attempts to protest these conditions or unionize are squashed by the bosses.

Tourist-related taxes are a major source of revenue (6 percent of total tax revenue; 75 percent of this amount is from the Value Added Tax or VAT) for the DR government. The industry makes up 16 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 12 percent of national employment and is the main source of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) at 15 percent.

However, the tax revenue from tourist corporations are almost nil, due to special incentive schemes for this industry. Almost all tourist tax revenue comes from the individual visitor. Foreign investors receive a 10-year 100 percent tax exemption on investment income (profits), relief from impost duties (taxes), no VAT on construction materials purchased in DR, no taxes on real estate holdings and money transfers. Almost all tourist operations are foreign-owned, the great majority European.

To this poison, add widespread corruption between public officials and the private sector. The capitalists routinely buy off "public servants." DR is known as an open investment regime by international finance. Except for Cuba, so are all other Caribbean nations.

A May 2012 report from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) states that working conditions for DR tourist workers are similar to those of all the other Caribbean nations competing with DR for the tourist dollar: awful.

Frank Moya Pons, a DR historian, showed that the result of these economic policies increase the severity of poverty. Now Haiti wants to follow this path. Haiti has similar economic problems as DR, only much worse. The rulers of Haiti, with their imperialist overseers in the U.S., see tourism as an important source of profit. As with DR, a major issue for foreign capitalists is how to lower the already very low Haitian labor costs (\$3.75/day USD) to increase those profits on the backs of workers.

Workers in Haiti and DR must make crucial decisions. Will they allow themselves to remain in the trap of wage slavery offered by the tourist bosses or other capitalists? Or will they follow the path towards winning a society based on equality? We will try to struggle alongside our comrades in Hispaniola to win communism with international working-class unity.

*Westchester Red*

## 'Seizing the Moment' in the Harlem Rebellion

The great "Wanted for Murder" CHALLENGE front page (7/4) reminded me of a similar situation in 1964 and PL's reaction to it. A cop had murdered a black teenager in cold blood which set off the Harlem Rebellion, the first of the big-city black uprisings. PLP's forerunner PLM (Progressive Labor Movement) issued a poster with the cop's

picture on it entitled "Wanted for Murder, Gilligan the Cop." It immediately became the rebels' flag. They put them up on every lamppost and marched through the streets displaying CHALLENGE's front page with that message on it, similar to our recent issue.

While PLM was a small, pro-communist organization and barely a year old, we soon became "the talk of the town." We were the only group that supported the rebels. All the reformist leaders, black ministers and the corrupt "Communist" Party pleaded with the rebels to "cool it," and condemned PLM as "adventurist." But the rebels streamed into PLM's Harlem headquarters, grabbing copies of the poster and CHALLENGE (our paper was barely a month old at the time) to plaster them throughout the city.

The ruling class was frightened as hell and its judge issued an injunction banning us from "congregating" in Harlem, between 110th St. and 155th St. in Manhattan, from river to river. In the teeth of this fascist act (a first in the city's history), we decided to break the ban and hold an outdoor demonstration in the heart of Harlem. The cops immediately arrested our Harlem leaders and eventually indicted and convicted them for "inciting to riot" and a host of other ruling-class laws.

The bosses' newspapers, editorial writers, politicians and TV stations became a chorus of attacks on PLM. Scores of PLM members were called before a Grand Jury on the basis that we had organized the rebellion (which, unfortunately, was untrue). We refused to cooperate with this rich man's jury and many were jailed for contempt. The Harlem leaders and the PLM printers who had printed the poster were sentenced to prison terms and several young women comrades were jailed "until they talked" (which they didn't). Through those comrades we exposed the Greenwich Village Women's House of Detention as a House of Horrors, which eventually led to its closing.

PLM organized support rallies in other boroughs and PLM members were invited to speak on campuses throughout the country. The Vietnam War was raging at the time and our reaction to the Harlem Rebellion, plus other actions exposing this imperialist war, helped catapult us into the forefront of the anti-war movement.

So even though we were small in numbers, by "seizing the moment" PLM was able to influence tens of thousands about the nature of racism and capitalism, an important lesson for today.

One cautionary note: although hundreds responded to our actions, we erred in not collecting their names and phone numbers and therefore were unable to follow them up and bring them closer to, and into, the PLM, a mistake we can learn from.

*A PLM old-timer*



# Japan: Capitalism Can't Solve Its Nuclear Problem

The vast amount of energy that is wasted in pursuit of maximum profits for capitalist corporations is the source of Japan's energy problems. The fossil fuel burnt to enhance automotive industry wealth, the electric power consumed in neon signs, electric vending machines, and advertising in all its forms are unfortunately, not what is being emphasized by spokespersons for a growing anti-government movement in Japan.

On July 16, as many as 170,000 protesters gathered in central Tokyo to demand an end to nuclear power and to protest the government's recent decision to resume nuclear power plant operations after a two-month total shutdown for a phony safety check. Pointing to a complete lack of meaningful progress in restoring disaster victims' livelihoods and in decontamination of polluted areas, the demonstrators demanded the resignation of ineffectual prime minister Noda and his New Democratic

Party administration.

The mass movement against the use of nuclear power is growing in Japan in the wake of the nuclear disaster brought on by the earthquakes and tsunami in March 2011. The movement is well on its way to gathering 10 million signatures on a petition calling for the abolition of nuclear power. The working class in Japan knows it cannot trust government bureaucrats or their capitalist masters to safeguard public safety. Many working people know Tokyo Electric Power Company has used gangsters (sokaiya) to intimidate protestors in the past. We in PLP also know that to solve a capitalist created energy crisis, a communist revolution is necessary.

As victims of the great U.S. war crime, the use of A-bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the workers in Japan understand the horrors of radiation poisoning.

The growing movement reflects a national mood in favor of sweeping social change — a new way of life. Anti-capitalist sentiment is growing, but much like the Occupy movement in the U.S., it lacks the type of clear direction that could be given by a revolutionary communist party.

Japan has been suffering from post-bubble economic stagnation and mass unemployment for more than 20 years. Of course, the U.S. and Europe are heading down the same path after their asset-bubble economy burst.

The old Japan Communist Party gave up the fight for communism long ago. Instead it mounts electoral campaigns promising, in effect, that if only good, intelligent people, like their candidates, were given the reins of power, then the system could work with a few "scientific-socialist" modifications. The old Socialist Party that once led militant trade union struggles is now defunct. A handful of op-

portunistic quasi-Trotskyite (fake leftists) groups only add to the confusion about Marxism-Leninism.

Of course this general situation is not unique to Japan. There are no shortcuts in the fight for communism — for real revolution. Communism is where workers control production for their needs. The capitalist class is resilient and flexible enough to withstand movements based on misleading slogans like "We are the 99%."

In Japan like everywhere else, substituting one bourgeois party for another, building one reform movement after another that ignores the control the bosses have over economic resources — the underlying cause of unemployment and pollution — leaves capitalist bosses in power. Workers worldwide will learn this. It is up to us in PLP to help bring this about sooner rather than later.✱

## 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

### US bombs still killing in Laos

**NYT, 7/12** — VIETIANE, Laos — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton made a brief stop on her Asia tour...in Laos...one that brought into stark relief the enduring legacy of the Vietnam War.

At an artificial-limb center, Mrs. Clinton met a 19-year-old who lost his forearms and eyesight when a bomb, dropped by the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and unexploded for decades, finally blew up three years ago.... The United States has not signed the Convention on Cluster Bombs.

Mrs. Clinton viewed a map embedded with red dots that showed where the bombs were dropped along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and on the Plain of Jars. There were more than 580,000 bombing missions by the United States Air Force, making Laos the most heavily bombed country on a per-person basis....

At the end of the war, more than 30 percent of the bombs remained unexploded, leaving Laos with a deadly problem...that persists today....

Rural people often scavenge for the bombs, believing the metal has value. Young children think they are toys....

### Obama's drones: sound clean, cause carnage

**NYT, 7/20** — To the editor:

The moral case for drones is hauntingly reminiscent of the Vietnam War-era strategy of bombing villages to save them. The technology is more sophisticated, but the tactic remains barbaric....

Drones drastically lower the threshold at which politicians are willing to kill, because there is effectively no political downside. Witness the American military strikes in Waziristan, Yemen and Somalia, yet nobody in the United States seems to think twice about them.

I have been in Pakistan and have seen the carnage that Mr. Obama's robot war has created....

### More testimony vs. Florida killer

**NYT, 7/17** — MIAMI — An Orlando woman...told investigators that George Zimmerman, who is charged with second degree murder in the killing of Trayvon Martin, groped and touched her inap-

propriately over a decade....

The woman's...parents were close to the Zimmerman family....

In another tape...the same witness describes Mr. Zimmerman's family as routinely disparaging black people....

### It's not 'we' — it's capitalism

**GW, 7/20** — It is not all of us..."we," who have "conspired to trash the planet."

There is a very powerful and wealthy group who profit from...capitalism, and who have played their part....

Only when the reality of class war is faced,...will the rest of us understand the struggle....

### Prez-elect doesn't run Egypt

**NYT, 7/14** — As Mr. Morsi moved this week to challenge the generals, [Egypt's] state media have quickly allied with the generals, persistently undercutting the new president while still ostensibly honoring his position.

That apparently contradictory result has made it clear who still holds the real power....

### Small debt can still mean prison

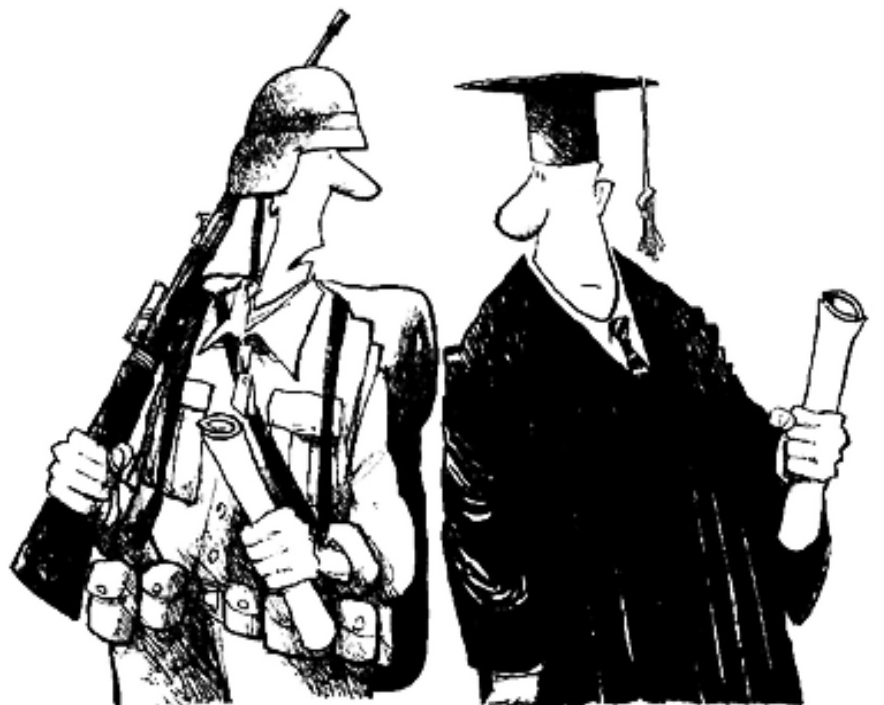
**NYT, 7/14** — ...It is fundamentally unfair and violates the equal protection under the Constitution for a judge to lock up an indigent or unemployed person because he cannot afford to pay a speeding ticket or a fine for a misdemeanor.

Yet judges routinely jail people to make them pay fines even when they have no money to pay....

Felony offenders who have completed their prison sentences are often sent back to jail when they cannot pay fees and fines they owe because they could not earn money while locked up....

This devastating problem has gotten far worse the past five years, the result of budget-strapped state courts looking for sources of revenue, and

"I FIGURE IT'S EASIER TO FIND A WAR THAN A JOB THESE DAYS."



ever more poor people becoming ensnared in the court system....

This revenue-oriented approach is made worse by the increasing use of for-profit companies to collect fees owed in the courts. They add hefty fees of their own to make their profits and have gotten judges to issue arrest warrants if someone has not paid up — with no apparent need to consider a person's ability to pay.

### Arms profits = world massacres

**NYT, 7/9** — The world is awash in conventional weapons, like tanks, firearms and aircraft, with the market value at \$40 billion to \$60 billion a year.... Many of these arms are fueling conflicts and atrocities in Syria, Sudan, the...Congo and beyond. They have been used to kill countless innocent civilians, and they will be used against countless more....

The United States is the world's main arms exporter....

Trade in virtually every major commodity, from oil to bananas, is subject to international agreements....[but] conventional arms are not subject to...[meaningful] controls.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

# Capitalist ‘Healthcare’ Plans Hazardous for Workers

On June 28 the Supreme Court declared Obama's health reform, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), constitutional. Many "progressive" voices cheered this as a great victory while the Tea Party "conservatives" screamed that the president's reform was equivalent to socialism and must be stopped. Other health reformers were quick to point out that the new law, having survived a court challenge, would still not do much. Physicians for a National Health Plan (PNHP), for example, pointed out that this puny reform leaves 26 million uninsured and provides inadequate coverage for millions more.

What lessons can communists learn from all this noise? Primarily, it is that neither side of this "debate" represents the interests of workers. The Tea Party racists, cackling about the un-constitutionality of the law and calling Obama a socialist are clearly enemies of the working class. But less clear is that liberal politicians like Obama are no better. In more than three years of the Obama presidency the working class has continued to suffer devastating racist attacks, in employment, health care and education. One cannot ignore the unprecedented campaign of racist deportations that Obama has overseen. For workers, choosing one group of bosses and politicians over another is a lethal mistake.

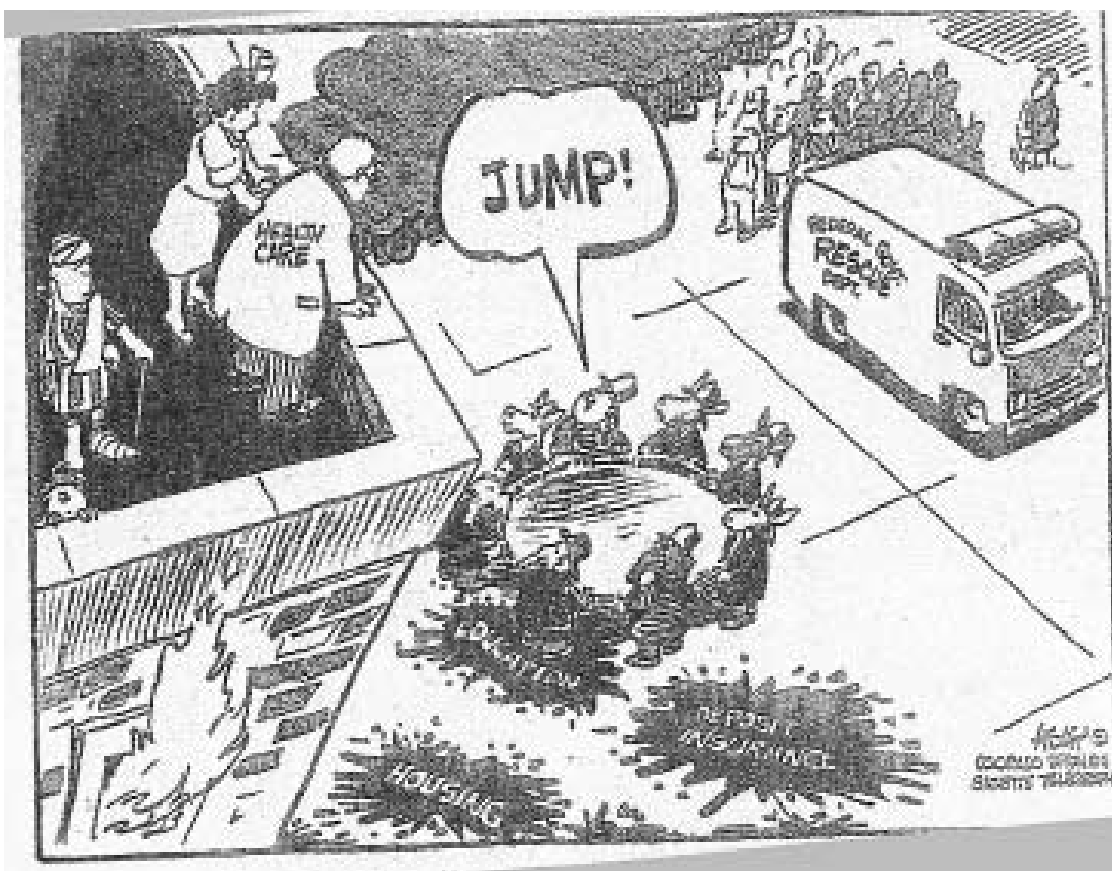
For communists, the slogan "To each according to need," has guided us since the days of Karl Marx. In other words, we don't rely on any politicians, who all serve one section of bosses or another. Their system, capitalism, is not based on the needs of workers. Capitalism always has been, and always will be a system of profit, greed, racism and sexism. Capitalism is a system where workers only have worth as long as they can labor and produce profit for a boss. The principal lesson of Obamacare (as the ACA is called) is that only a system truly based on the needs of workers — communism — will bring us decent health and health care.

PNHP explains why people in the U.S. can't have the health reform we need: "the ACA perpetuates a dominant role for the private insurance industry. Each year, that industry siphons off hundreds of billions of health care dollars for overhead, profit and the paperwork it demands from doctors and hospitals; it denies care in order to increase insurers' bottom line; and it obstructs any serious effort to control costs."

The PNHP and other liberal critics of Obamacare have shown that eliminating the \$400 billion profit and overhead taken by the insurance companies would pay for insuring the rest of the people who need care. They lay it all out at (<http://www.pnhp.org/resources/administrative-waste-consumes-31-percent-of-health-spending>).

What they don't talk about is why such a logical and well-documented change is impossible under developing fascism, a period that, among other things, includes the intensification of the disciplining of the working class. What this means is that workers, while suffering greater attacks, become politically aligned with bosses. The rulers primarily use racism and nationalism to convince workers to stand behind "their" bosses and politicians. U.S. bosses require this political allegiance from workers because the bosses need to defend themselves against increased attacks from their capitalist rivals.

Rather than improving access to care for ordinary working-class people, all over the world health care systems are privatizing, eliminating access by people with limited income. In Sweden, a country that comes to mind when someone says "socialized medicine," the first private, for-profit medical service in decades started in the 1990s. According to a study by Ake Bergmark of Mid Sweden University, "In 2000, St Görans' Hospital in Stockholm ... became the first general emergency hospital in Sweden to be transferred into private ownership." Privatization in the United Kingdom, begun un-



der the Thatcher administration in the 1980s, has continued with public medical facilities in Britain increasingly suffering neglect and under-funding. Similar "market reforms" of public health care are seen across Europe. Professor Howard Waitzkin of the University of New Mexico has documented the dismantling of public hospital and health systems in several countries in Latin America under pressure from the International Monetary Fund controlled by the U.S.

The most dramatic fall in mortality rates ever witnessed in a large country occurred in China in the generation following the communist-led revolution there in 1949. The leading slogan in medicine, as in other spheres at that time, was "Serve the people." Perhaps most shocking to people who still associate the word "socialism" with China is the current complete dominance of market forces in Chinese medical care.

Now, in a large new provincial children's hospital in Lanzhou, China, visitors were taken aback to see a giant electronic display in the main lobby listing the exorbitant prices for medical services. In the newborn intensive care units of China, according to an article by Huanhuan Wang published this year in the U.S. journal Pediatrics, about two-thirds of the infants who die from respiratory failure do so because their parents could no longer afford the cost of the breathing machines that were keeping them alive. Clearly the slogan leading development in recent years is the one coined by the pro-capitalist Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s: "To get rich is glorious."

With these worldwide trends of privatization and "market reforms" at work, is it realistic to think that increased access to good medical care (or to education, transportation, housing or employment) is in the cards? Reforms that created the modern welfare state, with its government-supported services to improve the living standards

of workers, did not come about because of some kind-hearted politicians. These reforms in Western Europe and other rich capitalist countries resulted from workers' class struggle and consequent ruling classes' fears of the possibility of revolution. They were afraid that their workers would follow the lead of the Soviet working class and seize power by force.

Sweden did not invent socialized medicine. The Soviet Union was the first country to make medical care a right of every worker, a revolutionary innovation that was launched when workers took power in 1917 and which was largely in place with a vast network of health care facilities by the early 1930s, as described in detail by Newsholm and Kingsbury in their 1933 book, Red Medicine (available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/newsholme/1933/red-medicine/index.htm>).

Today, living conditions are worsening for working-class families around the world as the Great Recession deepens and fascist conditions intensify. Obamacare will have virtually no impact on this reality. Not every working man, woman and child has the promise of a healthy and productive life because some silver-tongued capitalist politician gives the perfect speech or because some billionaire makes a "gift" to charity of the money he stole from workers.

This new world will be created only after we workers fight a long and bloody revolution to take power away from the exploiters who rule the world today. Can this happen? It was already begun twice in the last century. There is no reason our Party can't learn why those revolutions reverted back to capitalism. PLP can lead a revolution for workers' power in the years ahead that answers the working class's needs.✊

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