

CHALLENGE



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Trayvon Verdict Means: Fight Against Racism, For Communist Revolution

WASHINGTON, DC, July 21 — After the racist acquittal of George Zimmerman who murdered teenager Trayvon Martin, PLP'ers took to the streets here with many other outraged workers and students. Twelve hours after the verdict, PLP assembled over a dozen organizers to leaflet and mobilize workers in the Stodtert Terrace neighborhood in Ward 7 against the acquittal. This bullhorn rally moved through the community where PLers have been active for over two years, reaching scores of residents with flyers and speeches. Some young workers called for Zimmerman's head! Many understood how serious the racist offensive in the U.S. is today.

This racist assault includes not only police and vigilante murders of young black people but also the mass incarceration and slave labor of prisoners who are mainly black and Latino; Congress's effort to terminate food stamps; and the Supreme Court's recent reversals of affirmative action and voting rights legislation. Locally, affordable housing is disappearing as gentrification takes hold, with the connivance of corrupt city officials. Meanwhile, the bosses have launched new attacks on the mainly black Metro transit workers.

A week after the July 20 rally, the Peoples Coalition of Prince George's County, Maryland, organized numerous local groups for a bold 10-mile "Justice for Trayvon" march. It left from the County and strode militantly through DC's working-class communities, ending at the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Cheer 'Justice for Trayvon' Marchers

Almost 100 workers and students made this arduous march, in the best tradition of the Civil Rights movement. Residents cheered and drivers blared their horns in solidarity. Marchers joined Dorothy Elliott in vowing to re-open the 20-year-old police murder of her teenage son, Archie Elliott III. He was shot at 21 times of which 14 bullets struck him while he sat handcuffed in the front seat of a squad car. The two cops who murdered Archie have never been punished.

PLP marchers also circulated a petition demanding that the Metro transit system reverse its recent policy of refusing to hire anyone with any kind of criminal record. Metro is eager to racially stigmatize its mainly black drivers. It has even fired workers who have worked for Metro for many years simply because they had a record before Metro hired them! Some marchers received CHALLENGE for the first time and were interested in hearing about PLP's global involvement in workers' struggles in Haiti



and elsewhere as well as our role in building a revolutionary communist movement in the D.C. area.

Expose Sharpton's Respect for Jury Decision

After a brief rally at the DOJ, the Peoples Coalition decided to march to a nearby rally organized by Sharpton's National Action Network (NAN) to bring the Coalition's militant fighting spirit to the hundreds gathered at a local courthouse. The NAN leader preached passivity, declaring his support for the "rule of law" and for respect for the jury's decision even while disagreeing with it.

Sharpton's organization, known for falling in line with President Obama, had told the Coalition to change its plans and join them. In response, an organizer for the Peoples Coalition declared, "We're autonomous and independent of the Civil Rights leadership and the Democratic Party. Therefore, with all due respect, we take no orders from Rev. Al Sharpton or any Civil Rights leader. Our orders come directly from the masses, our energy, loyalty and activism is on direct behalf of the masses."

The Coalition thus brought a message of militant struggle, enthusiastically received by those at the NAN rally.

Capitalism's Profit Drive Root of Racism

But even the message of the Peoples Coalition was incomplete. It did not address how racism is a foundation for capitalism's drive for maximum profits and how it uses racism to super-exploit black workers and to divide and drag down the entire working class. The struggle against racism can only be successful when its root — the exploitative capitalist system — is overthrown. There can be no accommodation with capitalism if racism is ever to be finally eliminated.

Actually, if Zimmerman had been convicted, the rulers and their flunky misleaders would only use it to claim "the system works," while hundreds of other youth continue to be victims of racist murder.

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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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. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and 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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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

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.

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Editorial

Rulers’ Mideast Schemes: Oil and War

In serving the U.S. ruling class, two factors guide Barack Obama’s policies in the greater Middle East: controlling oil profits, and preparing for a future inter-imperialist war. This explains what Obama did in Libya — and what he hasn’t done in Egypt.

Unlike Libya, Egypt doesn’t have much oil. But it does have the Suez Canal, a vital waterway for the world’s main cheap oil reserves. The bulk of Saudi, Kuwaiti, Iraqi and other Europe- and North America-bound oil exports travel through the canal. Most of it goes under the U.S. and allied British brands of Exxon Mobil, Chevron, BP and Shell. In addition, U.S. Navy warships depend mightily on the canal. The Pentagon’s World War III planning counts on it. If the canal were to be shut by anti-Western insurgents, oil exports would need to detour thousands of miles around the southern Horn of Africa to reach their destinations.

And it’s pertinent to note that Egypt’s armed forces keep the Suez Canal open.

U.S. Rulers See No Evil in Egypt

When Obama ordered the 2011 NATO invasion of Libya, he hid behind a “responsibility to protect” Libyans from dictator Muammar Qaddafi. Left unmentioned were Libya’s considerable oil reserves, which are coveted by Big Oil. But since the July 3 coup in Cairo, the U.S. president and his capitalist bosses have looked the other way as Egypt’s military murders hundreds of unarmed protesters in the streets. In fact, the U.S. continues to provide the same bloodstained junta with its annual \$1.5 billion supply of military hardware, made by profiteering U.S. arms-makers.

Why the inconsistency? Because workers’ lives have no value for capitalist rulers. The bosses are steered by profit alone. Obama’s raid two years ago was spurred not by Libya’s 5.7 million suffering inhabitants, but rather its 1.6 million daily barrels of oil. Then as now, the needs and limits of U.S. imperialism — not any concern for our class — dictate the bosses’ deadly Middle East gambits.

Besides trusting Egypt’s military tyrants to safeguard the Suez Canal, the U.S. rulers have assigned them two other important jobs. The generals are charged with preventing Arab states’ attacks on U.S. ally Israel, and also with curbing the spread of anti-U.S. al Qaeda-led Islamic forces inside oil-rich monarchies in the Exxon-Chevron-BP-Shell sphere. Ousted president Mohamed Morsi, of the Muslim Brotherhood, wasn’t up to these tasks. No sooner did Morsi get the boot than the petroleum-soaked princes of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates pledged \$12 billion to prop up Egypt’s military brass.

Bosses’ Plan B: Let Syrian Workers Die

Meanwhile, as strife in Syria has killed over 100,000 and left millions homeless, no vow to rescue the afflicted can be heard from the White House. Another country with limited oil but vast geopolitical significance, Syria hosts a Russian naval base and has strong alliances with U.S. foes China and Iran. U.S. rulers would love to be rid of Bashar Assad’s pro-Moscow/Beijing/Teheran regime. But at the same time, they fear strengthening the militant Islamists who hold the upper hand among the Syrian rebels. As a result, Obama has abandoned his phony “responsibility to protect” and chosen to let the bloodshed continue.

Plan A for the U.S. in Syria was to use defecting officers and Islamist fighters to bring down Assad and then install a pro-Western government. But given the unexpected strength of the Syrian army and the unreliability of the opposition, Obama & Co. have apparently turned to Plan B: Let the war drag on in the hope that the two sides will weaken or even destroy each other.

Anthony Cordesman, based at the U.S. ruling class’s Center for Strategic and International Studies, confirms this cynical approach. He proposes that the U.S. can protect its huge geostrategic stakes in the Middle East by limiting military



aid to Syria to small arms, at least for now, he states (Washington Post July 22):

If Assad succeeds in crushing the opposition or otherwise maintains control over most of Syria, Iran will have a massive new degree of influence over Iraq, Syria and Lebanon in a polarized Middle East divided between Sunni and Shiite. Minorities [millions of refugees] will be steadily driven into exile. This would present serious risks for Israel, weaken Jordan and Turkey and, most important, give Iran far more influence in the Persian Gulf, an area home to 48 percent of the world’s proven oil reserves. If Washington arms the rebels and they still lose, the United States will at least have shown its willingness to make decisions and honor its commitments. It will have shown it will make good on its words and support its allies.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, the ultimate insider, concurs. As he told the U.S. Senate on July 18, “I am in favor of building a moderate opposition.” Dempsey cites U.S. budget constraints on broader U.S. action in Syria, which would require “thousands of special operations forces and other ground forces...needed to assault and secure critical sites.” These costs, Dempsey later wrote to the Senate, could average “well over \$1 billion per month” (which he thinks is excessive).

Main Capitalists Prep for Broader War

Dempsey’s reluctance to over-spend isn’t just aimed to appease the anti-tax, anti-deficit Republicans. It follows the lead of the dominant liberal wing of U.S. bosses — the ultra-imperialist finance capitalists like JPMorgan Chase and Exxon Mobil — who have far bigger fish to fry than Syria. Their top spokesman, Richard Haass, president of their supremely influential Council on Foreign Relations think tank, called for “refraining from direct armed intervention in Syria’s current civil war” (New York Times, 6/22/13). Haass said U.S. rulers should capitalize on their current military lull (after the Iraq and Afghan drawdowns) to make long-term preparations for potential world war with their imperialist rivals. “Most important, we should step up efforts to maintain stability in Asia and the Pacific Ocean, where this century’s great powers could easily collide,” Haass declared.

All of these ruling-class servants dismiss the impact of their imperialist policies on the international working class. None of them are concerned how their wars in the Middle East and South Asia destroy workers’ homes, bomb workers’ schools and hospitals, maim workers’ children, and kill millions in the process.

The capitalists’ profit-driven system breeds mass unemployment and poverty, burns workers alive in garment factories, wrecks the minds of soldiers forced into war, and uses racism and sexism to divide the working class and weaken its ability to challenge any of these horrors. At the same time, workers are forced to pay for the wars that slaughter them. They bear the brunt of capitalism’s world economic crisis through cuts in wages, social services, and healthcare, and through long-term unemployment. The bosses’ never-end-

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Chicago: Antiracist Trayvon Marchers Welcome PL's Ideas

CHICAGO, July 14 — Supporters of Trayvon Martin gradually gathered at what first looked like a lonely intersection. News crews and photographers were first to arrive but slowly and steadily students and workers began arriving. The march organizers were college students who were outraged and emotionally affected by the verdict.

Progressive Labor Party members started speaking with the people and distributed 250 CHALLENGES and 700 PL leaflets. All were well-received and 17 contacts were made.

As the crowd grew one could sense the disbelief over the verdict, the anger over another injustice. Reforms, non-violence and prayer were part of this demonstration's intended message.

However, with every step of the march PL's message resounded throughout: To fight back and see that the present system is killing us — that racism and cops are tools for the bosses to maximize their profits. The message was so loud cars driving by would honk in support and keep in pace with our chants to let us know that our message was coming across.

As the march approached its destination, PLP members and friends continued to distribute CHALLENGES and flyers, highlighting the key struggles around nationalism, racism and non-violence. The 300 marchers heard the speakers answer the question, "What do we do from here?" with a call for non-violence and prayer and to sign an NAACP petition, reflecting the outlook of the outrage of the organizers, not the protestors.

We had a banner reading, "It's time for Communist Revolution." That's our class's only alternative to racist cops, courts and their racist laws.✊



DC: Fight vs. Racism, For Communist Revolution



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The next day PLP members and friends joined a Speak-Out for Trayvon organized by a teacher at a local literacy program. She had visited Stoddert Terrace the weekend before the rally and wanted to move towards more action. Over 50 people attended to discuss how racism affected their personal lives through racial profiling, intimidation and stereotypes. They want to fight back by:

1. abolishing the "stand-your-ground" laws
2. divesting in banks that fund private prisons
3. boycotting Officer Friendly visits to schools and working with youth
4. focusing the August 24 March on Washington on Trayvon and the bosses' criminalization of black youth.

Speakers also attacked capitalism as the source of these problems. PLP members invited the group to our bi-monthly study/action group meetings to discuss how we can re-organize society based on communist principles.

The bold actions of participants in all of these events have laid the foundation for further progress, both ideological and practical, in the struggle against racism and for communist revolution.✊

Rulers' Mideast Schemes: Oil and War

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ing drive for maximum profits falls on workers' heads from Greece and Spain to Pakistan and Bangladesh to Turkey and Brazil and Mexico. U.S. workers are far from immune. Most vulnerable of all are immigrant workers who move from one capitalist country to another, searching for the promised "better life" but falling under the heel of exploiters with every border they cross.

Communist Revolution, the Only Solution

The rulers *do* worry, however, about the revolutionary potential of the working class. That's why they are intensifying their fascist attacks in every corner of the globe. Hitler's Third Reich was a tea party compared to what the world's capitalists have in store for us.

But the international working class is not taking this offensive lying down. Workers have taken to the streets throughout the world — striking, fighting the bankers' austerity attacks, rebelling against a siege of racist murders of youth like Trayvon Martin.

The rulers try to divert workers by offering electoral choices of various ruling-class stooges, from Obama to South Africa's Jacob Zuma to Haiti's Michel Martelly. They use these sellout reformers to try to divert our class from the one real solution to the hell of capitalism: communist revolution. Only communist revolution can create a society run by and for the working class. And it can only be achieved by building a mass communist party, the Progressive Labor Party, to lead it.

It is imperative for all PLers and friends, wherever PLP groups are organizing, to spread our communist politics among workers and youth in every mass organization we've joined. By starting with tens and hundreds, we'll eventually reach thousands and millions. What everyone does counts.

Only communism can rid the world of bosses, profits and wars. Only communism can end racism, sexism and mass slaughters. Capitalism is the ultimate weapon of mass destruction. Communist revolution will bury it forever.✊

Robbing Detroit's Workers Proves Capitalism's Bankruptcy

DETROIT, July 26 — There are many lessons to be learned from the city of Detroit being forced into bankruptcy. The bosses and the media they own would have us believe that good wages, health care and pensions are the cause of every financial crisis. But the Detroit bankruptcy is an attempted “Smash and Grab” by the bosses to steal \$3.5 billion in city workers’ pensions and \$5.7 billion in retiree health care. The bankruptcy will enable a federal bankruptcy judge to impose further cuts to city services and to void union contracts.

If they pull it off here, there is an estimated \$3.5 trillion in city and state pensions around the U.S., \$134 billion in New York City alone. With union leaders committed to their bosses’ success and politically wedded to the profit system, the bosses have driven down wages, destroyed private-sector pensions, doubled the “normal” unemployment rate, attacked the pensions and healthcare of retired auto and steel workers, and are out for more. Every attack can be “doubled” when applying it to black, Latino and immigrant workers. Which brings us to Detroit, with an 80% black population.

Charlei LeDuff of the Detroit Free Press wrote in the New York Times (7/25), “Of Detroit’s debt of at least \$18 billion, about \$7 billion is secured by collateral like casino revenues and utility taxes. That means creditors — read: big banks — will get paid. Of the remaining \$11 billion or so in unsecured debt, about \$9 billion is owed to retirees and current municipal workers... These debts come in the form of promised pension checks and health care benefits, all backed by a false, unsecured promise. These are the people who are likely to lose out.”

Thanks to the Bush and Obama bailouts and billions in UAW concessions, the auto bosses and bankers are once again making billions in profits. Yet Detroit is a hollowed-out shell. Banks and auto companies make profits, cities don’t. The latter provide services, and that costs tax money. Soaring racist unemployment, half the population it had in 1970 and lower wages all add up to reduced income tax revenue. The bosses and Obama are not about to bail out Detroit.

Chrysler’s Jefferson North plant on Detroit’s east side, in the midst of mass poverty and surrounded by barbed wire, is producing \$2 billion in annual profits (NYTimes, 7/15). Most workers in the plant make \$12/hr. and have no pension, reduced health care, and the union is in the midst of a 5-year no-strike contract. These workers cannot afford the \$50,000 Grand Cherokees they build. When they go home, many have no street lights. If anyone in their family should have a medical emergency, they cannot count on an ambulance showing up.

The racist profit system can never guarantee a future for the international working class. For decades, Detroit and its auto workers led the whole working class in winning a higher standard of living, from decent wages to home ownership, from retirements you could live on to some of the best health care coverage for U.S. workers. These hard-won advances often required violent mass struggle, from the 1937 Flint Sit-Down Strike to the 1967 armed rebellion against racist police terror. These victories have been wiped out. As long as the bosses hold power we will be fighting for crumbs and that can never be guaranteed. Only a PLP of millions leading tens of millions more can crush the bosses and build a communist society to meet the needs of the international working class.✪



**Black,
Latino,
Immigrant
Unite!
Fastfood
Workers
on
Strike**

Mexico’s Education Reforms Net Bosses Millions, Push Rulers’ Ideology

The rulers’ latest education reforms show how the state and the law serve capitalist interests against the working class. Privatizing education enables a handful of millionaires to turn the educational system into a commodity and get rich from the labor of hundreds of teachers and millions of students and parents.

Education is not just a business for the ruling class; it’s also an important way to control workers ideologically. Their education reforms will promote even more individualist, racist and fascist that ideology the bosses need.

Reforms Push Individualism

The use of evaluations promotes individualism because teachers must focus individually on getting their students to pass standardized tests to “guarantee” their jobs. The imposition of quotas means that those who pay the most get a “better” education. This fosters individualism and racist inequality. The students are trained within the individualist criteria of competition, which is what eventually the bosses need for them to produce in the labor market.

Reforms Are Racist

By using standardized tests, without concern for the cultural, social and economic differences of certain regions, indigenous and marginalized communities will be at a disadvantage and as a result will be evaluated in a racist manner and found lacking. This sets them up to receive fewer resources and increases their poverty and oppression.

In Mexico, the capitalists have concentrated their educational investments in the country’s most industrialized northern regions. Their decisions generate profits, and do not respond to the needs of the working class. As a result, the southern region has been left behind educationally, which is racist. The educational reforms will worsen this situation by assigning resources based on the results of the evaluations.

The reforms will be used to discredit public education and promote private education. This, in turn, will foster an increase in racist inequality.

Reforms Are Fascist

The bosses need a working class that’s easy to con-

trol, is productive but with a minimum of technical training. The reforms, through evaluations, try to standardize our youth with a fascist and competitive ideology.

In the capitalist jungle only the “most capable” survive (meaning those who get “better” evaluations) — those who follow the system’s ideology. That’s fascism. Our youth will be forced to work for miserable salaries under repressive conditions. The reforms create the ideological basis for these conditions.

The Education We Need

Reforms like these are implemented around the world to undermine the working conditions of education workers, break their collective contracts, their benefits and their unions. But particularly this is an attack against the youth and their parents, against the whole working class!

The purpose of these reforms is to reproduce capitalist ideology and allow a handful of millionaires to make a bundle in the education business. We must confront these attacks with the international unity of the working class.

We workers need an education based on principles favorable to the working class — scientific, collective, comradely and which promotes solidarity. Education must be focused on solving the problems and needs of our class. That can only be achieved in a communist society in which workers hold state power. To achieve that, we must destroy the capitalist system with a communist revolution.

For that goal we must build a communist party, not a bosses’ electoral one. This party must fight the bosses’ attacks like these reforms, and must train and educate the working class to build a new society.

The role of the teachers is essential to reach this goal because they have the potential to promote the unity of the whole working class to wrest power from the oppressive ruling class. The teachers also have the opportunity to challenge the individualistic, racist, sexist and fascist ideology that capitalism promotes among parents and students. This struggle is essential to destroy the capitalist system.✪

Anti-Racists Protest Racist Zimmerman Verdict

Angry Black Youth Block Traffic, Trains, Smash Police Cars



LOS ANGELES, July 20 — For the last week thousands of workers from all over LA have protested the racist verdict allowing lynchman Zimmerman to go free. Multiracial protests, led in large part by militant black working-class youth, took to the streets, stopping traffic along both sides of Crenshaw Boulevard, stopping the train system along the way and taking over parts of the highway for a time. Some expressed their anger by attacking police cars and destroying fences and storefronts. The Party participated in all of these demonstrations, distributing CHALLENGE with lead articles connecting the Trayvon Martin case with the racist killer cops in New York. We led anti-racist, anti-capitalist chants and carried signs that said “Racist Murders Mean Fight Back!” and “Trayvon Means Fight Kourts, Kops, Kapitalism.”

The first few marches, while large, were relatively leaderless. We attempted to give more political leadership during one of the marches in confronting the police but were limited by the size of our forces and base among the masses.

This exemplifies how being more immersed within mass organizations and

within the community is essential to us being able to lead our sisters and brothers in the class struggle. We are attempting to be more involved in community groups here and will continue to attend the marches, which show no sign of stopping at the moment. Obama’s recent speech indicates that he is attempting to harness this anti-racist anger of millions of workers, particularly black workers, to the illusion that they “have a stake” in this country. No doubt this is an attempt to transform this anti-racist militancy into patriotism in hopes of increasing military recruitment as much larger wars loom in the future.

One highlight is that a young black worker and leader of the Party has been giving bold leadership and brought two friends to different events and is doing more on his job to organize against the speed up and cuts in proper equipment. However, we all have to do more on the job and in our mass organizations to bring more of our friends out to these demonstrations to turn them into schools for communism which build our organization, the PLP!✊

Find No Justice in Bosses’ Courts

HAMMOND, IN, July 20 — In front of the federal court house, over 100 angry workers protested the racist verdict from the trial of George Zimmerman, murderer of Trayvon Martin. The demonstration was sponsored by the Rainbow/Push coalition, but much of the contingent were community residents and friends. The misleaders of the protest offered workers no real solutions to the callous and racist murder of black youth under capitalism.

Instead, one organizer offered the repealing of the “Stand Your Ground” law in Indiana as a means to keep black youth safe from racist vigilantes in their neighborhood. However, Zimmerman’s lawyers didn’t even have to invoke “Stand Your Ground” in a trial that clearly demonstrated how the racist kkkourts see black youth as expendable. Zimmerman’s lawyers said that *he* was using self-defense when *he* approached an unarmed black teenager with a gun and shot him down in cold blood. Additionally, repealing “Stand Your Ground” wouldn’t address the racist police murders of black youth that is enabled and protected by the same kkkourts.

Another organizer requested that everyone in attendance pressure the U.S. Department of Justice to file a civil lawsuit against Zimmerman on behalf of Trayvon Martin’s parents. Why should workers believe that justice can be found in any of the bosses’ courts? Even in the best-case scenario, Martin’s parents get

paid off while their son, and hundreds of others like him, are refused true justice. Regardless of what the bosses tell us on a daily basis, a worker’s life has no price tag.

As if things couldn’t get worse, another organizer said, “If you don’t vote, you can’t complain.” This comes just weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court removed the veil of voter equality by gutting the Voting Rights Act, not to mention the mass killing of black youth by racist police that has happened under Obama’s watch. In addition, a point that all of these misleaders fail to mention is that black workers didn’t vote to gain the right to vote. A multi-racial group of workers fought against the kkkops, the kkkourts, and the Ku Klux Klan to win the right for black workers to vote. And even after all of the blood, sweat, and tears, voting has never helped the working class. Instead, it has provided false hopes that workers have a say in a system that’s designed to exploit and oppress them. Don’t vote, revolt!

Despite what all of these misleaders say, workers won’t find justice through the bosses’ laws or by fighting one or two laws! Workers won’t find justice through the bosses’ kkkourts or payoffs! Workers must not vote for their exploiters and oppressors! To end racist murder, workers need a revolution! Workers need state power! Workers need communism! Join PLP!✊

Cultural Revolution Article Hit the Mark

I was glad to read the article on the Cultural Revolution earlier this month after returning from a trip to China. Like most Western visitors there, I spent my time in the cities, amazed at the size and speed of construction, the world-class accommodations and the remarkable new subway systems. I got to know some Chinese professionals and we talked about how the country is changing. The CHALLENGE article referred to a book by Dongping Han which turns out to be easy to find on Amazon.com. That book put my first impressions into perspective.

Today over half of China’s population is classified as urban, which, on the surface, sounds like capitalism is making everybody middle class. The reality, as Han points out in his book, *The Unknown Cultural Revolution*, as well as in an excellent talk he gave (available on C-Span video www.c-spanvideo.org/program/290017-1) is more complicated. The huge economic growth of China since the restoration of capitalism over 30 years ago probably would never have been possible

without the mass increase in education for the non-urban people that happened because of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76). The restoration of private ownership of farms and factories since the 1970s has allowed some people to become very rich while others are much poorer. Post-Cultural Revolution capitalist policies permit discrimination in hiring based on ethnicity, and Han describes in his C-Span talk how racism has come back to parts of China where multi-ethnic harmony existed under socialism. Pensions and free health care in the villages, funded by the people’s communes, disappeared when the farms were privatized. Now former “barefoot doctors” have turned into medical entrepreneurs and make profits by performing ultrasounds for sex determination and aborting female fetuses. Poor rural workers take this desperate action because they have no old-age support except for a male child.

Western visitors to China also don’t see the tiny cubicles that workers live in, crammed into run-down parts of the huge cities. A typical Chinese family’s experience is portrayed in the documentary *The Last Train Home* (available on Netflix), a documentary showing how a mother and father toil in a sweatshop in a large industrialized city but must leave their son and daughter back in their home village in another province. Only once a year can they afford to make the thousand-mile train ride home to see the children, who live with their grandmother. If the children went to the city with their mother and father they would not be allowed to attend school since the family’s official residence is tied to their home village. That’s why every year at the time of the Spring Festival, the only long vacation of the year, 135 million Chinese workers travel home. In Shanghai, about half of the 23 million people living there have their official residence somewhere else. These exploited workers and the children deprived of parents are another piece of the Chinese “economic miracle.”

Red Traveler

Some of the most exploited workers go on strike nationwide, including Detroit, St. Louis, and New York. Fastfood and retail workers discover power in unity.



LETTERS

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

Anti-Racist Protesters Salute PL Politics

At a PLP demonstration in Brooklyn protesting the racist murder and verdict in the Trayvon Martin killing, militant speakers, in English and Creole, related it to the role racism plays in capitalism and the need to get rid of the whole system. As I stood across the street, passersby stopped to listen and grabbed CHALLENGES and our leaflets. Everyone seemed enthusiastic to hear the anger in workers who spoke and eager to discuss our point of view. Especially moving was the talk by the sister of Shantel Davis, one of the victims of police murders in Brooklyn.

Some friends in a local church told me about another demonstration in Harlem which I went to that evening. There were only a couple of hundred people there, and the organizers were stridently black nationalist. Two of them threatened me for being white and then, when they saw my leaflet, for being red. They even said from the microphone that no one should take any PLP leaflets.

Nonetheless, we ran out of the 500 leaflets and 100 CHALLENGES we had, taken by many demonstrators and passersby. Many people agreed that an alliance of black and white workers and students was needed to fight racism. A new comrade from the church and a high

school student brought by a PL teacher received a good lesson in the dangers of nationalism.

Some attendees were shocked by the small size of the demonstration. This may reflect the very bad politics of those who organized it. But it also reflects the general lack of mass struggle in Harlem, despite the high poverty rate, unemployment and rapid gentrification. This represents the successful efforts for many years of politicians and various community misleaders to squelch any struggle there, in an area where mass outrage and fight-back were once the order of the day. In the 1960s, when a black teenager was shot by a racist cop in Harlem, a rebellion erupted in which PL was very active and which sparked uprisings nationwide. We must continue our involvement there and help light that spark again under revolutionary leadership.

Anti-Racist

CHALLENGE Serves the Working Class

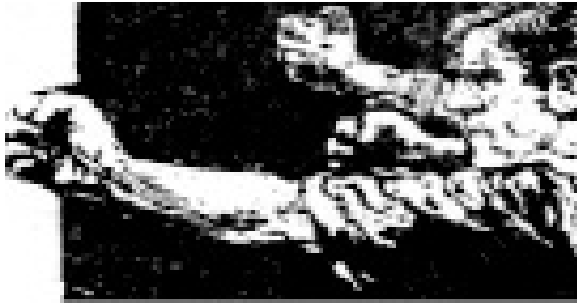
Greetings, and my sincerest thank you for the collective work in publishing CHALLENGE! The service for our working class is wonderful. And I fully support the writing style of the collective in aggressively educating and telling the truth. Even so many of our revolutionaries are so timid and reserved in their language choice and structure, so as not to piss off the ruling class or their

petit-bourgeois minions too much. In reality it can mean the difference not just between jail or freedom but life or death, here in “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Your cold, hard truth-telling and open calls for our class to organize revolution are more refreshing than a cold drink in the summer in Imperial-occupied Central America! (Insert any country here.)

Enclosed is a solidarity check for \$100 for a one-year subscription for my comrade/spouse in the U.S. I was fortunate enough to get a copy while attending the Left Forum 2013 in Manhattan. Thanks for keeping us informed and educated (and pulling the tail of the tiger). I look forward to my first subscription copy of CHALLENGE.

Retired Union Firefighter



Communist School Inspiration to Turn Up Class War

Coming to events like a PLP communist school always invigorates me to reengage in the class struggle in a better way. We deepened our understanding of the philosophy of the working class: dialectical materialism. When we analyze our struggle by using dialectics, we can make better decisions on our tactics in the development for revolution.

With comrades like the ones I met, we will most definitely win! The determination, wisdom, enthusiasm and collectivity of this new young leadership were amazing to see. We discussed the fight against sexism and racism, building communist culture, how to make revolution primary in the class struggle and even communism in space! The future is ours, comrades!

A communist

★★★★★

I returned from PLP International communist school inspired and much more knowledgeable. What gave the event its essential power was the participation of many young people, who provided general leadership and also led all the workshops.

It was very impressive to see our young people's level of preparation on dialectical materialism and the different aspects of the struggle for communism, which was also evident in talking to them.

This communist school has been the best I've participated in, because of the level of organization, discussions, and depth of the workshop topics. I learned new concepts and struggles of other comrades in the Party. I left convinced that the fight for a communist revolution is a long-term struggle. If we put in all our passion and energy, we'll be contributing in this process to unite the whole international working class — to achieve the goal of destroying capitalism and build a new society led by one party, our Progressive Labor Party.

Inspired comrade from Mexico

★★★★★

I feel like I have a much better understanding of dialectical materialism. I've read *Jailbreak* (a PLP pamphlet) several times so I've known the three laws of dialectical materialism. Over the past few days, I've learned some of the finer points to the three laws. Hearing examples of the different laws and actually constructing examples helped me as well.

I hope to actually embrace dialectical materialism and use it to solve the problems in my life. I have a better understanding of what sexism is and why woman are especially targeted. I've also come to understand why racism is the key contradiction holding the working class back from uniting and fighting for communism. I almost didn't come to the communist school, but I'm glad I did!

Red College Student

★★★★★

The Party is always fighting to develop new young black, Latino, and women leadership. As a twenty-year old, I always thought the Party was referring to people like me. Now I realize, that the adult teachers who recruited me are considered young leadership too.

Having a founding member of PLP speak about our history really put our struggle into perspective. I always thought the Party was huge back in the 1960s — we took 59 people to Cuba illegally during the ban; turned the vigilant anti-red trials at the courts into a mass protest against capitalism; shipped arms and food while giving leadership to the striking miners in Hazard, Kentucky; were active in supporting the Harlem rebellion when every other group advocated “peace”; we began the anti-Vietnam War movement; we had the guts to correctly criticize nationalist leadership in Vietnam and in China.

Turns out the Party was much smaller — but we were sharp as a sword and a threat to the bosses. Today, PLP is international and organizing in over 25 countries. We've come so far because we toughened up, dared to struggle — dared to make communist revolution primary in every breath we took. PLP was sharply anti-racist since birth! That gives me great confidence in our Party, in our movement, and in our ability to create and maintain communism.

This lesson came out when we had our open mic night — we used communist culture as a weapon against the bosses. Literature, music, dance is important in grounding our commitment to revolution — but I think the indestructible weapon is our unity. It's the relationship we build with our comrades that will survive through the tear gas, bullets, and drones. There is no stronger danger to the bosses than our commitment to communism and to our comrades.

That's what we built at this communist school and I look forward to a lifetime of revolution, building stronger relationships with my comrades, and serving the working class. This communist school was awesome and I can't wait to get back to my local area and turn up the class war!

Motivated Fighter

★★★★★

The communist school has definitely intensified my passion for communist revolution. Trying to understand dialectical materialism has been a frustrating endeavor, but its applications have been extremely helpful. The communist revolution has taken light into my life. I believe that racism and capitalism are interdependent.

The life on campus was amazing. I finally can eat good food as well as go to sleep whenever I feel like. The needs that I sought out were definitely met. I love the communist experience!

Enthusiast

★★★★★

The PLP conducted a four-day communist school for its emerging red leadership. After extensive discussion, the participants reaffirmed the Party line that the main obstacle that continues to hold back the development of class-consciousness in the working class is racism.

Several participants spoke about their involvement in the fight against police murders and brutality in NYC. The Party gave leadership to hundreds of people in the battles. Their fights can grow into massive anti-racist fights, opening the door for communist revolution.

DC Red

★★★★★

This week at the communist school has been the best one yet. The workshops on dialectical materialism were really, really helpful and exciting! I love figuring stuff out. What drew me to communism first was the theory of historical materialism. (I was a history nerd). Now dialectical materialism has given me the method to figure out the whole world.

Besides the theoretical work we did, it was really fun seeing comrades, old and new, from around the world. We also played loads of soccer, which built up the camaraderie among us. I could only hope that every week could be like this. Until next time!

Fun Red

★★★★★

The future of the Party is in good hands. For five days, communists met to improve their understanding of dialectical materialism, which is the working class's philosophical weapon to destroy capitalism with communist revolution. From what I saw, our future is bright!

Inspired

★★★★★

The only solution is communist revolution. We met to analyze and develop our work in the class struggle to defeat capitalism and build for communist revolution.

We applied the dialectical laws — contradiction, quantity into quality, and the negation of the negation — to the process of what we are doing in school, on the job, and in the streets of our communities. Confronting racist police murders in New York and Anaheim, organizing to stop hospital closings in Brooklyn, and fighting back against the destruction of public education in the U.S. are the realities of our lives. It also provides us with the material we need to win our friends and fellow workers to join Progressive Labor Party.

If we apply what we learned from this experience to what we are doing, where we live and work, we will succeed in the goals of the school — to move the working class closer to taking power!!

Veteran Comrade

Latest Bo\$\$es' Bonanza: Privatizing Community Colleges

SAN FRANCISCO, July 9 — Fifteen hundred students, teachers, staff and community members marched without a permit from the downtown campus of San Francisco City College (CCSF) to rally at the Department of Education, protesting the threatened closing of the college. CHALLENGE was distributed to the marchers. PLP's job is to give communist leadership in this struggle, steer the fighters to the left with our paper CHALLENGE and study groups, continue to build strong ties and recruit them to a communist outlook.

School and community organizers and a few politicians denounced the recent decision by the ACCJC (the publicly chartered but private accrediting agency) to cancel CCSF's accreditation effective next year. The AC-

CJC report praises the education offered at the college but cites administrative and financial problems as the reason for their decision.

Some classes for the 85,000 mostly Asian, Latino, black and immigrant students have already been cut, some campuses closed, wages of teachers and staff cut, and some counselors and school workers laid off. These racist and sexist cuts and closings expose the bosses as the bloodsuckers they are. The ruling class doesn't really care about educating working-class youth. They care about money for their imperialist wars.

The downsizing was triggered by the capitalist-caused economic recession, which saw \$53 million cut from the CCSF budget. However this outrage originates with corporate interests who directed the Federal Department of Education to turn community colleges into junior colleges that supply new workers for local businesses. The bosses see community colleges as factories to churn out as low-paid workers and soldiers as fast as possible.

There is \$2 trillion circulating in the world with no place to profitably invest it, so corporate interests speculate with stocks and derivatives or just hold on to their cash. These capitalists have recently discovered the \$650 billion yearly spent for U.S. education. And they are in the process of continuing to privatize parts of it through student loans, testing, textbooks, on-line resources, tutor-

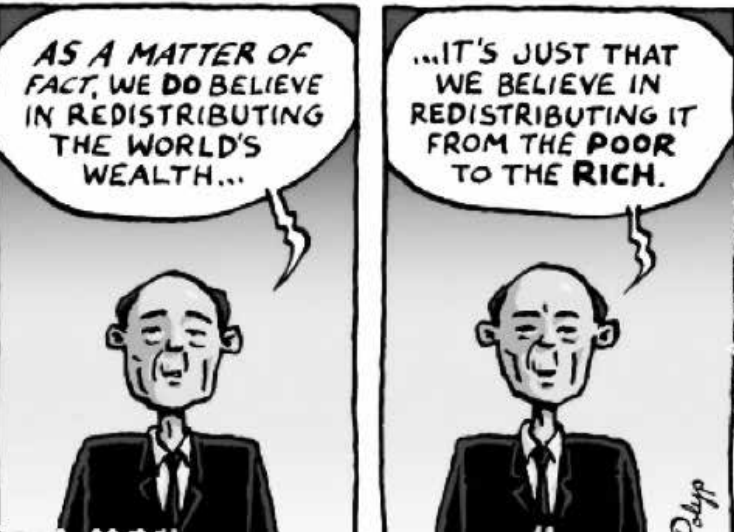
ing services, charter schools, and private trade schools.

Some misguided workers, including the "leadership" of the Service Employees International Union, preach obeying administration directives instead of fighting back. Some want to concentrate on winning back the old status quo and characterize the ACCJC as a rogue organization. Others want to focus on the media and politicians. While the politicians and Board of Trustees members pretend to be on the students' and workers' side, they are here to placate us.

PLP and others see the cuts as a new reality where capitalists, acting through their government, wage continuous war on the working class for profits and for a better position to battle capitalists from other countries, economically and militarily. We must organize masses of students, workers and the community by building multiracial unity. We need to go beyond an "against-privatization" line and resist ruling-class ideas of education as a neutral space. Private or public, schools are a way for bosses to control students.

As the bosses prepare for war, they need to tighten the chokehold on workers and all the institutions through which they rule. In a word, the bosses are building fascism in the U.S. These attacks on our class are just a glimpse of what's to come. Democrats and Republicans, their think tanks and their henchmen like the ACCJC, will continue these attacks until we smash them and the working class takes political power.

While PLP is inside the reform movement that aims to save this community college, we must be fighting to win the masses to communist ideas and practice and to join PLP. Building our communist party to smash capitalism is the only way we will ever have an education worthy of our working-class children.☸



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

Juror: Zimmerman 'got away with murder'

NYT, 7/26 — A juror who said she initially wanted to convict George Zimmerman told ABC News...that he "got away with murder" in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager.

But faced with Florida's self-defense laws,...she said she felt compelled to acquit [him]....

Freeing...Zimmerman had been heartbreaking for her, she said, adding that she owes the Martin family an apology.

"It's hard for me to sleep, it's hard for me to eat because I feel I was forcibly included in Trayvon Martin's death....As I carry him on my back, I'm hurting as much as Trayvon Martin's mom because there is no way that any mother should feel that pain."

Calling herself the "juror that was going to give him the hung jury," [she] said she "fought to the end."

She said she voted to convict...Zimmerman of second-degree murder right after she first entered the jury room...But in the second day of deliberations, she realized that the law would thwart her, she said.

"A lot of us wanted to find something bad, something we could connect to the laws....But as the law was read to me, if you have no proof that he killed him intentionally, you can't say he's guilty," she added....

The first juror who spoke out...juror B37... [Told] CNN...that...Zimmerman was justified in shooting Mr. Martin in self defense....

Four other jurors...signed a letter distancing themselves from B37 after the CNN interview.

Profit formula = misery for schoolchildren

NYT, 7/19 — Bangladesh — On the worst days, the toxic stench wafting through the Genda Government Primary School is almost suffocating. Teachers struggle to concentrate, as if they were choking on air. Students often become lightheaded and dizzy. A few boys fainted in late April. Another retched in class.

The odor rises off the polluted canal — behind the

schoolhouse — where nearby factories dump their wastewater. Most of the factories are garment operations, textile mills and dyeing plants in the supply chain that exports clothing to Europe and the United States. Students can see what colors are in fashion by looking at the canal....

Nearly three months ago, the Rana Plaza factory building collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people, in a disaster that exposed the risks in the low-cost formula that has made Bangladesh the world's second leading clothing exporter, next to China, and favorite of companies like Walmart, J.C. Penney and H&M. That formula depends on paying the lowest wages in the world and... spending a minimum on work conditions and safety.

Heroic young Soviet women pilots

NYT, 7/15 — The Nazis called them "Night Witches" because the whooshing noise their plywood and canvas airplanes made reminded the Germans of the sound of a witch's broomstick.

The Russian women who piloted those planes, one-time crop-dusters, took it as a compliment. In 30,000 missions over four years, they dumped 23,000 tons of bombs on the German invaders, ultimately helping to chase them back to Berlin. Any German pilot who downed a "witch" was awarded an Iron Cross.

These young heroines, all volunteers and most in their teens and early 20s, became legends of World War II but are now largely forgotten. Flying only in the dark, they had no parachutes, guns, radios or radar, only maps and compasses. If hit by tracer bullets, their planes would burn like sheets of paper.

Their uniforms were hand-me-downs from male pilots. Their faces froze in the open cockpits. Each night,



the 40 or so two-women crews flew 8 or more missions — sometimes as many as 18.

"Almost every time we had to sail through a wall of enemy fire..."

Zimmerman ire recalls Rodney King

NYT, 7/17 — LOS ANGELES — The police here were preparing for another night of protests...after anger over the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin turned violent in South Los Angeles....A group of 150 mostly young people.... ran through the streets, blocking traffic....Hundreds of police...in riot gear descended on the area....Fourteen people were arrested,...half of them juveniles.

Two decades ago the acquittal of white Los Angeles police officers in the beating of Rodney King sparked deadly [rebellions] in the same part of the city....

Young black people continue to be perceived as threats and targeted by the police...and the Zimmerman case showed how they often paid with their lives....

When Barack Obama was elected...crowds gathered in Leimert Park to celebrate. "They really did see it as a new day in terms of race...."

Now, the same community is protesting instead of celebrating...

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Racist Bosses Wrecking Hospitals; Workers' Rx: Multiracial Unity



BROOKLYN, NY, July 28 — “They are trying to turn back the clock, but we are not going back to the cotton fields!” declared a nurse from Interfaith Hospital.

She was referring to the racist nature of the planned cuts in healthcare and jobs as bosses move forward with plans to close two major hospitals in Brooklyn. Workers continue to come out in the hundreds in rally after rally to fight these racist, sexist closings. But as we go to press, Long Island College Hospital (LICH) is down to a handful of patients and workers have been put on “administrative leave” until the courts can sort out how to close the hospital and Interfaith bosses have submitted a closure plan to the Department of Health and Hospitals.

Workers at a third hospital, State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate, are also fighting for our lives. Our administration took over LICH and now plans to close it. Many think this has to do with the fact that real estate moguls will pay \$500-800 million to build condos where LICH stands. Unfortunately SUNY bosses, with the active and tacit support of the union misleadership, have succeeded in dividing LICH and Downstate workers. On July 15, when LICH and Interfaith workers picketed the sexist bosses’ meeting at SUNY Downstate campus, the unions at Downstate did not support them and in spite of the efforts of some of us who work inside, only a handful of Downstate workers attended.

Many LICH workers think closing Downstate campus will save them and Downstate workers think closing LICH will save us. Not so! In fact Downstate workers have a lot to learn from LICH workers’ day-in-and-day-out struggles to save their hospital and we had better learn quickly, because the bosses and politicians will be turning their attention to cutbacks at Downstate as soon as they finish with LICH. And you can bet Downstate workers and patients will not see much of any real estate money, either!

Because the ruling class control the press, the courts, the politicians and the police, they may succeed in taking healthcare and jobs from us. What they cannot take from us is what we learn from the struggle. We learn how to organize and unite men and women, black, white Latino and Asian, professional and nonprofessional. We learn who our friends and enemies are. We should not be fooled by the politicians who speak at every rally. They are mainly beholden to the wealthy donors who fund their campaigns. Part of their value to these bosses is that they tend to keep our struggles within narrow confines that don’t include things like striking or taking over the hospital.

In fact, hospital workers and patients across New York and across the country need to unite to fight the bosses’ plans to cut healthcare to divert funds for war plans with Iran and later on down the road with imperialist rivals China and Russia. PLP members at these hospitals are working to develop and recruit new members so that we can have greater impact on turning these fights into a struggle for workers’ power, egalitarian communism, a society where workers collectively rule and share the wealth we produce to meet our needs.☺

BROOKLYN, NY July 27 — “When I was a young woman in the Philippines, I sympathized with the communists and they were the only ones fighting back. Many of us did secretly but you never talked about it. We were afraid of being disappeared, which happened all the time under the [U.S.-supported] dictatorship there. Now at this age I see. I moved to this country decades ago for a better life for my family but now look what’s happening around us. Those who fought were right.”

That’s the conclusion drawn by a veteran worker at Long Island College Hospital (LICH). She and her co-workers are fighting to keep the 150-year-old community hospital open. The hospital’s scenic waterfront location overlooking the Manhattan skyline is valued at over \$800 million. SUNY Downstate, which owns LICH, and Governor Cuomo hope to sell it off to the highest bidder to build luxury condos.

LICH serves the black and Latino residents of the giant Red Hook housing project and many more. There are demonstrations almost every day as the hospital has been turned into an armed camp. Despite winning every court battle and numerous injunctions to keep LICH open and staffed, Downstate abruptly removed every medical resident at LICH and declared the hospital at “unsafe” staffing levels. EMS 911 calls are banned from bringing patients to the LICH Emergency Room, and patients have been illegally transferred to other hospitals. Hundreds of staff are on paid leave and entire floors, including the Intensive Care Unit and Operating Room, are padlocked. In one incident, the Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit fought the ER Director to have an infant admitted.

To terrorize workers and patients out of fighting back, the bosses hired three different private security agencies, at least one of them carrying concealed weapons and no visible ID. This is in addition to hospital security and the state troopers posted here. Nurses have reported being followed to the bathroom. In one well-publicized incident, an elderly man with dementia was given a one-way bus ticket to Florida, even though he has no family there. When the Attorney General’s staff arrived to investigate, the man had mysteriously “disappeared,” and none of the five types of security

surrounding the hospital ever saw him.

Some patients are refusing to be transferred elsewhere. Others will clutch at your arm and share their fear at where they will end up. Methodist Hospital, located in upscale, mostly-white Park Slope, has received many of the EMS runs rerouted from LICH. Last week, their morgue was filled to capacity with no place to put the corpses. That same day, the ER was overflowing with over 120 patients and the hospital didn’t have enough meals to feed them.

Union Leaders, Politicians = Dead End for Workers

Local 1199 SEIU and the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) have been staging rallies to bolster a strictly legal effort to save LICH. At the same time, they have undermined any attempts to build unity with the Red Hook residents or stage direct actions like a sit-in in the ER with staff and patients or blocking the removal of equipment. They have hitched their wagon to Mayoral hopeful Bill DeBlasio, who turns every action into a campaign appearance and “civil disobedience” photo-op.

PLP is in the thick of this struggle, trying to expand the readership of CHALLENGE while participating in meetings, rallies and endless discussions with our co-workers about the need for unity with Red Hook residents, fighting racism, and for communist revolution. There’s a good chance that LICH will be added to the list of St. Vincent’s, Peninsula, North General, and the dozen hospitals that have closed in as many years in New York City. The bosses have announced that Interfaith is next and SUNY Downstate has already laid off about 1,000 workers even as they sell off LICH. And for all the union’s campaign contributions and providing foot soldiers, Obamacare will not restore any of these racist, murderous healthcare cuts.

LICH may likely close, but like the woman quoted above, many workers and patients can be won to see that “the communists are right.” We need to expose the double-edged racist and sexist nature of these attacks on workers. PLP can grow with new friends and new fighters and the revolutionary communist movement can be strengthened.☺

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