

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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BANGLADESH



UNITED STATES

May Day Advances the Fight for Communist Revolution



MEXICO



BRITAIN



TAIWAN



ISRAEL/PALESTINE

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

Syria — Another Front for Imperialist War



The civil war in Syria has U.S. rulers in a quandry. They are targeting the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad in line with their perpetual need to secure Middle East oil and gas. Only by limiting arch rival China's access to energy for its growing economy and military can the U.S. bosses maintain their imperialist advantage.

At the same time, U.S. capitalists are concerned that a Syrian invasion could repeat their fiascos in Iraq and Afghanistan — especially in light of U.S. workers' skepticism and lack of support for the next war for profit. Zbigniew Brzezinski, a national security advisor to Jimmy Carter and other U.S. presidents, told Bloomberg Television that military involvement in Syria would risk “a large-scale disaster for the United States.”

Last August Obama warned Syria it would be crossing “a red line” and inviting U.S. intervention if it used chemical weapons. Amid recent reports that both Assad and his Syrian opposition may have used poison gas (New York Times, 5/6/13), Obama must choose between unpopular military force and a loss of credibility. A lead front-page Times article (5/5/13) said Obama was “reluctant to become entangled in another war in the Middle East, and, well aware that most Americans oppose military action, the president has deliberately not explained what his ‘red line’ actually is.”

Israeli rulers, acting as front men for the U.S., have twice launched air strikes on Syria's Iranian-supplied missiles, setting their own red line to stop shipments to Israeli enemy Hezbollah, as well as exposing Syria's weak air defense.

Obama's promised intervention has his defenders in the liberal media and think tanks claiming that his worries stem from a rare diplomatic mistake on his part. “Off-the-Cuff Obama Line Put U.S. in Bind on Syria,” reads the Times' May 5 top headline. An op-ed article in the same issue by Brookings Institution director Daniel Byman blames Obama's lack of planning: “In the Syrian case, the red line on chemical weapons appears to have been issued without a decision as to how we might respond to a Syrian breach.”

Obama's ‘Blunder’ Or Service to Finance Capitalists?

But Obama didn't blunder into his Syrian dilemma. He is boxed in by his subservience to U.S. finance capital. In particular, Obama must protect the interests of ExxonMobil and other energy companies in competition with Chinese and Russian capitalists, who regard Syria as a toehold for their own imperialist interests.

ExxonMobil has hired James Jeffrey, formerly U.S. ambassador to occupied Iraq, to help negotiate huge oil deals with Baghdad (Reuters, 2/8/13). Without acknowledging his Exxon paymasters, Jeffrey wrote an April 27 article for the Washington Post-owned Foreign

Policy entitled “Intervention Escalation.” In it, he identified U.S. imperialism's main global foes in Syria: “Iran, Russia, and China have deep stakes in the preservation of the Assad regime.” Then he highlighted U.S. bosses' temporary opportunity: “The power balance in Syria's immediate neighborhood is so tipped in favor of the United States and its friends that there is little China and Russia (or Iran) could do to counter the United States directly.”

In short, the diminished “potential for a Russian, Chinese, or Iranian backlash should not deter Washington from taking necessary military action in Syria,” Jeffrey asserted. Alluding to his Exxon bosses' hold on Iraqi and Saudi oil fields, he said, “Middle Eastern stability is a key U.S. interest...as is living up to our red line threat on chemical weapons use.”

According to the Exxon mouthpiece, the U.S. war machine is very capable of cashing obama's check for Syria. He referred to an April 17 report in the Los Angeles Times:

The Pentagon is sending about 200 troops to Jordan, the vanguard of a potential U.S. military force of 20,000 or more that could be deployed if the Obama administration decides to intervene in Syria to secure chemical weapons arsenals or to prevent the 2-year-old civil war from spilling into neighboring nations.

Limits of Military Power

Obama may strike Syria soon. If he doesn't, it will mean that the U.S. bosses' longer-term strategists have prevailed. Strategic Forecasting, Inc., an influential policy analysis firm that counts the Pentagon and much of the Fortune 500 as clients, warns on Syria:

Many things are beyond the military power of the United States....You cannot stop a civil war by adding another faction to the war unless that faction brings overwhelming power to bear. The United States has a great deal of power, but not overwhelming power, and overwhelming power's use means overwhelming casualties. And you cannot transform the political culture of a country from the outside unless you are prepared to devastate it as was done with Germany and Japan.

Regardless of the bosses' timetable for an attack on Syria, the international working class must prepare for more Middle East oil wars — and potential world wars — as imperialist rivals fight it out for the maximum profits they need to survive. To that end, we must build an international communist party, the Progressive Labor Party. PLP's sole aim is to organize the destruction of capitalism — with its profits, racism, sexism, mass poverty and unemployment — and to establish a communist society run by and for the working class. This means winning millions of workers, youth and soldiers to communist revolution.☸



Student Conference

Need Multi-Racial Unity to Stop Racist Mass Incarceration

WASHINGTON, DC, April 20 — More than two hundred people gathered at Howard University to build the fight against the racist U.S. injustice system, which jails black and Latino people far out of proportion to their numbers in the population.

Organized by the Howard University chapter of Students Against Mass Incarceration (SAMI), the two-day national conference gathered people from five other campus chapters. Students and friends from the community joined to learn, debate, and plan actions against the abusive, racist prison system. Progressive Labor Party members distributed more than 200 CHALLENGEs and called on people to join the May Day march in New York.

Conference organizers sponsored a Friday night movie on the refugee camps in Palestine, which are essentially open-air prisons for tens of thousands of Palestinians expelled from Israel over the last 65 years. This event underlined the importance of international solidarity in the struggle against global oppression. Other sessions focused on political prisoners who continue to resist injustice behind prison walls.

Participants raised several ideas for action. First, confront college administrations that refuse to hire former prisoners or to admit them as students. Second, demand that universities break their ties to corporations that make millions in profits by exploiting prisoners. Third, build solidarity by supporting incarcerated individuals. As SAMI launches these struggles, the ruling class's racist plans will be sharply challenged.

Prisons are racist institutions that neither improve society nor keep workers safe. They're part of the bosses' strategy to divide, terrorize, and exploit the working class. As super-exploited workers, prisoners are a key source of profits for the ruling class. Smashing capitalism and abolishing anti-working-class prisons go hand in hand.

SAMI's main weakness is its nationalist outlook. The group defines itself as a black radical student organization and requires each chapter's leadership to be black. But nationalism limits the effectiveness of the struggle against mass incarceration and capitalism. Smashing the profit system will require multi-racial unity in intense struggle

against the capitalist rulers. When organizations focus exclusively on a single "race" or group within the working class, it weakens our solidarity.

PLP is building a revolutionary communist party that fights for black, Latino, and Asian workers and students to be leading forces in a multiracial fight to destroy capitalism and its prisons. As the struggle grows, students are learning that strength comes from unity. In one of the SAMI workshops, a woman looked at some PLers and friends, a group of Latino and South Asian students from New York, and asked, "What are you here for?"

One comrade replied, "Most of us come from Brooklyn where two black youth, Kiki Gray and Shantel Davis, were murdered by the cops. The night of Kiki's vigil, high school students began a powerful rebellion. They took the streets and fought the cops. We are part of that and want to build unity. That's one of the reasons we're here."

People nodded in agreement and were receptive to CHALLENGE and its front-page headline, "NYPD: Wanted for Racist Murder."

The rest of the day was devoted to performances and panels commemorating the struggles against racism and honoring a legacy of black fighters like Nelson Mandela — more evidence of the problems posed by nationalism. Once his forces seized state power, Mandela ushered modern capitalism into South Africa under a new set of black bosses. He betrayed the working class.

As communists, we need to ask where racism comes from. While it is disseminated in all aspects of society, the ruling class created racism and the phony concept of race to justify the super-exploitation of black workers and to prevent our class from uniting. We must work with people based on their politics and commitment, not their color. To do otherwise is to let the bosses win.

Students at the conference called for justice, liberation and revolution. What do these words mean? How do we organize for revolution, and what happens after the working class seizes state power? These questions were not addressed by SAMI. What black students — and all students — need is a communist party. PLP has a long-term strategy and solution for the international working class.✊

March vs. War-driven Closings of 61 Chicago Schools

CHICAGO, March 27 — PLP marched with teachers, students, parents and workers to stop school closings and the layoffs of 2,000 teachers. We brought a message that only communism can give our children a real future.

In late March, the Chicago School Board announced that 61 schools would be closed before the opening of the 2013-2014 school year. Most are located in black and Latino neighborhoods of the South and West sides of the city. These racist attacks will hurt black, white, Asian and Latino working-class students. When confronted about these racist closings, the Chicago school CEO stated: "It's not racist to close schools in those neighborhoods."

PLP has repeatedly warned of the coming wars to decide which imperialists will control the world. The U.S. ruling class will use its state power to mobilize the population for war. Squeezed by imperialist rivalries, the bosses are only interested in educating black, Latino and white working-class youth for this purpose.

U.S. rulers are trying to seize the opportunity created by the right-wing "education reform movement." The reformers have successfully mobilized some parents

and others to attack unionized public school teachers, demanded the use of standardized tests for data-driven evaluations of teachers, and popularized the call for more charter schools and corporate privatizing of education. They are calling on state governments to institute a "common core curriculum," which will emphasize regimentation and loyalty to the state.

Under capitalism, co-locations create smaller schools inside old school buildings, dividing students, parents, and teachers from one another and weakening their ability to organize. School closings are the order of the day for thousands of black, Latino, Asian, immigrant and white working-class children nationwide. These attacks will continue because the bosses need working-class youth to be the foot soldiers in their continuing wars, as well as low-paid workers or part of the reserve pool of unemployed workers. We will continue to bring the message of communist revolution to students, workers and soldiers in Chicago and all over the world. Capitalism is a rotten system that will be destroyed by the masses led by the PLP.✊

Jewish, Arab Women vs. Israeli Racist Land Grab

AL-ARAEQB, April 20 — A group of Jewish women and a PL'er met with the women of this "unrecognized" Bedouin village to show solidarity with their struggle against the government's moves to uproot them and steal their land. Most outsiders talk only with the men here, but we needed to hear the village's women as well. The meeting was initiated by the "Unrecognized Village Team" of the broad left Tarabut movement.

Last week, "the only democracy in the Middle East," as Israel likes to present itself, demolished Al-Araqueeb for the 49th time since the summer of 2010. This vicious policy exposes Israel as a racist state that serves Israeli and U.S. capitalists, never the working-class residents of Israel-Palestine.

Under the colonialist Prawer Plan, the Israeli government can evict Bedouins who live in "unrecognized villages" and grab their land. In these villages, the state denies the residents water, electricity, telephone, medical and educational services. All of these communities are Bedouin; no Jewish settlement goes unrecognized by the Israeli bosses. The government routinely funds the moshavim and kibbutzim, the individually or collectively owned farms settled by Jews. One government ploy is to grab Bedouin land by planting Jewish National Fund (JNF) forests on it. Every dollar people give to this Zionist organization is a dollar for theft and demolition.

In 2000, the Israeli rulers established the Ministry for the Development of the Negev (southern Israel-Palestine) and the Galilee (northern Israel-Palestine). Under Shimon Peres (now president of Israel and a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize), the Ministry created Givot Bar, a settlement exclusively for wealthy Jews, on lands belonging to Al-Araqueeb.

The Bedouin residents of Al-Araqueeb hold legal title to 115 acres. The village once had a population of nearly six hundred, and none were unemployed. As in East Jerusalem, they paid taxes to the government and got nothing in return. This is the bosses' method to pressure residents to leave for "planned" towns, the Israeli equivalent of reservations for Native Americans.

In July 2010, the village was demolished for the first time. The Israeli rulers' media described this act of state terror as though it were a wartime operation in the occupied West Bank. Later, during the winter, the village was demolished five times in a single week. The cops ordered residents to move to a nearby cemetery to smooth the way for the land grab.

In protest, residents are holding a protest vigil. They are struggling to hang on to their ancestral land despite the violence of the U.S. real estate tycoons and the Israeli government at their service. It is important to note that the Bedouins are fighting the state's racist, divide-and-conquer policy, not Jewish workers.

The destruction of Al-Araqueeb is part of an accelerated plan of evictions and theft of Bedouin lands in southern Israel-Palestine. Last year, the state ratified the "Law for the Management of the Bedouin Settlement of the Negev," which expands the Prawer Plan. Its goal is to evict 30,000 Bedouin workers from their lands and force them into "planned" towns where the unemployment rate ranges up to nearly 50 percent and crime and drugs abound. Objections filed by Bedouin groups and Amnesty International failed to turn back this racist law.

Billionaire Ronald Lauder, heir to the U.S. Es-tee Lauder cosmetics empire, is the biggest donor to the JNF and president of the World Jewish Congress. While he fattens his profits, his servants in the JNF, the Israeli police and the Israel Lands Administration destroy Bedouin crops and evict Bedouin workers to clear their lands for luxury Jewish settlements.

The Progressive Labor Party has joined this fight against the Israeli state and U.S. real estate moguls. We fight for working-class rule, where each and every worker, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, creed or sex, will have equal rights. Under communism, all workers Bedouin, Jewish, and Arab alike — will share in the bounty produced by society.✊

May Day Advances Fight...

HAITI

The working class needs a revolutionary communist leadership. Members and friends of PLP participated in a May Day demonstration. We distributed 250 copies of DEFI (Creole edition of CHALLENGE), calling for workers in the factories, fields and public sector, and students to build a mass PLP and end the misery of capitalism and imperialism.

We passed out 600 fliers exposing the role of union hacks, reformists pseudo leftists in trying to deliver workers and their unions in Haiti to the local and international bosses. Increasingly, PLP is giving revolutionary leadership to the workers' struggles here.

Nearly 300 workers and trade unionists took to the streets today. But without red flags, demands, slogans or political leadership, there was a carnival-like atmosphere at the Damien Industrial Park, where the bosses like to organize festivals.

But even this scared the bosses. Police blocked the protesters from the start, preventing us from marching to the Ministry of Agriculture where the bosses had organized a May Day "fair" to demean the struggles of the working class. Of course, workers couldn't afford the price of admission to the fair! The police barricaded the marchers while the band of criminals in the presidential motorcade were passed through. The opportunist union leaders used the march to make their usual press appearances, just like the factory bosses.

The two union federations organized separate activities, but the common thread was passivity and lack of struggle. Workers in Haiti face the most vicious exploitation by the international capitalists: crushing unem-

ployment and poverty, overcrowded and insufficient schools, no health care system and a cholera epidemic brought by UN troops which continues to kill daily.

Without revolutionary leadership inside the unions, the sellout leaders will reap their perks as they mis-lead workers into the arms of the bosses. It's our job to build a base inside the workers' movement and transform the fight for our daily needs into the fight for communist revolution. This is the leadership the international working class needs against the bloodsucking bosses.

Our experience this May Day gives our comrades and friends confidence that the working class is open to revolutionary communist leadership. By participating in these actions and fighting for our outlook with our revolutionary literature, we can move masses in this direction.

After the march, we gathered to discuss our experiences in union struggles and the need to make building PLP the main goal of every fight. It's important for us to participate in these struggles and give more direction on the ground. We seek new ways to create confidence in PLP among the masses. We grow stronger each time we participate and give leadership to workers' struggles.

DEFI must look deeper into the problems and obstacles faced by the working class, explain clearly why they exist and how they can be solved by getting rid of this rotten, racist, sexist system of exploitation once and for all.

Victory for the working class, led by the revolutionary communist PLP. Workers of the world, unite! Fight for communism!🇸🇰

MEXICO

PLers and friends marched carrying red flags and singing the "Internationale" and "Bella Ciao," while groups of electricians, teachers, and students who were marching close to us picked up our slogans and chants.

Seeing the energy of our small but daring group, a couple of youth joined our contingent and took one of our banners. We called on workers to get organized in a non-electoral party to fight for a communist revolution to destroy capitalism and its crises and imperialist wars.

The parade of the trade unions, which mostly control production industries, was at 8 am. Around 10 am was the march of the thirty thousand members of dissident unions, which mostly represent teachers, electricians, university workers and service industries. In total we distributed ten thousand flyers amongst the two contingents.

The weekend before May Day we organized two dinner parties and a dinner event for friends. Two comrades discussed the history of May Day, its revolutionary, communist, and international mean-

ing. The majority of participants went to the march.

Workers here and everywhere are facing attacks by the bosses: the reforms to labor, education and telecommunications laws, as well as those to be proposed in energy and farming, will cause more cuts in wages and salaries, and a larger concentration of the market in the hands of Mexican and U.S. millionaires.

Currently, conditions here are worse than China, allowing some bosses here to regain market share in the U.S. The bosses have been successful in reducing workers' benefits and increasing speed-ups. Imperialist rivalry has already taken its quota of blood from the working class, even prior to imperialist war breaks out.

In these conditions the growth of PLP is vital and urgent. We must combine patience with commitment. Building PLP should be the primary issue on our agenda. A communist world is the future of our class. Long live the international working class and its revolutionary communist party! Long lives communism!🇸🇰

NEW YORK

"Racist cops, you can't hide. We charge you with Genocide!"

"Black cop, White cop, all the same. Racist terror is the name of the game."

As PLP marched through Flatbush, Brooklyn, these chants filled the air. They expressed opinions held by many in this working-class, black neighborhood, which is not new to police murder. But every police murder leaves a fresh wound on the community, and these wounds never heal. The murder of Shantel Davis had roused the community. The recent murder of Kimani Gray pushed some into open rebellion. PLP was there on both occasions to give direction to the anger.

Our march was among the many marches we've had in Flatbush over the past eight months. But this march was about more than ending police brutality. It was about smashing this racist system. It was about creating a new world, a world where young people aren't shot down in the streets, a world worth fighting for.

We kicked off May Day with a rally for communism.



Workers watch the march intently and are happy to receive CHALLENGES.

Old friends and new faces filled the crowd as we raised our red flags and began chanting. True to our creed, there were many black, Latino, Asian, and whites in the crowd. Children and parents, students and teachers, workers and soldiers — all marching for one movement. This march offered us a glimpse of both the kind of organization and world we are fighting for.

Heads turned as we marched down Flatbush, over 500 strong, with our banners unfurled. Our signs depicted our fights — to turn imperialist war into class war; to end police murder and racist deportations; to end school closings, hospital cutbacks, and factory fires. We fight against all these attacks against the working class.

CHALLENGES were being distributed left and right, taken by shopkeepers, barbers, cashiers, school kids, grandmothers and whoever else was present. CHALLENGES were in peoples cars, apartment buildings, trucks, storefronts and bakeries. Every car honked to show us solidarity.

"Koupe Tet, Boule Kay"

As an internationalist organization, CHALLENGE is printed in English and Spanish, as well as, to name a few, in Creole, Arabic, Hebrew, and Dari in local areas. We chanted "Koupe Tet, Boule Kay!" This Creole chant dates back to the days of the Haitian Revolution; "Boule Kaye" has been a rallying cry at our demonstrations. It originated with a command by revolutionary leader Jean-Jacques Dessalines, when he and his slave army fought to liberate the nation — to "cut off heads and burn houses" of slave owners. Today, this chant embodies the fury of the exploited. We are in solidarity from Haiti to New York. A struggle in Haiti is *our* struggle, just as a struggle in Bangladesh or El Salvador is *our* struggle, because it is *our* class — the working class — under attack. Such an international morale was alive this May Day.

We concluded with another rally and assembled into our program hall, beautifully decorated, filled with communist artwork, red banners and photographs from May Days past.

The "State of the World" speech reminded us of the many attacks on workers worldwide, of the daunting force of U.S. Imperialism. But it also reminded us of our successes in building PLP and movement in Mexico, Palestine, Colombia, Haiti, and elsewhere.

There were performances by mainly young students. The classic "Clifford Glover" song (about a ten-year-old boy killed by the cops in 1973) was updated with a rap

Excited students wave red flags and chant at their very first May Day.



to follow the new struggles against racist police murder. A group of high school students recited "Good Morning, Revolution" by Langston Hughes. After that, they put on a skit produced, directed, and cast by students about the NYC Bus Strike. These performances open the door to a new world of working-class culture.

Onward to a New Year of Fightbacks

The "Why I Joined" speech was given by two comrades this year, both with moving accounts detailing their personal connection to communism and the PLP. A female comrade told us of how she went from being a soft-spoken girl in the classroom to a march leader, chanting "Death to the Bosses" at full volume. After having dealt with patriarchy and religious sexism, she was awed by the female leadership in PLP. Our newest comrade detailed how he grew up with a single mother who worked day in and day out to provide for her family, only to find that it was a dead-end for workers under capitalism. These comrades helped renew our commitment to PLP and communism.

Everyone stood up for a multi-lingual rendition of the "Internationale." The march and performances remind us why we joined PLP in the first place. Seeing comrades and friends, old and new, vigorously fighting against racism, sexism, and fascism makes this comrade want to fight as well. Happy May Day and cheers to an even more vigorous year filled with struggle! It is important not lose sight of our vision, and continue the fight for communism!🇸🇰

...For Communist Revolution

OAKLAND, CA



PLP members and friends joined the May Day Immigrant Rights March of 500-600 people. We struggled to bring class consciousness that unites both immigrants and citizens to reject all divisions.

A friend said, "PLP stood out due to its organization, the chants, the amazing banner and red flags. Our contingent energized the march."

As we rallied, the banner helped us to distribute our flyers and CHALLENGEs. We chanted in English and Spanish for the whole march and sang "Bella Ciao" and the "Internationale." We chanted for *all* workers' power, not just immigrant power. We shared the sound system and chanted together with others.

We connected the racist murders of black youth and the mass deportations of immigrants:

"OPD, KKK: how many kids did you shoot today?"

"Working people have no nation, smash racist deportations!"

The march circled though the Mi Pueblo lot, the site of on-going struggle in Oakland. Its formerly "illegal" Mexican owner decorates his store with the colors of the Mexican flag. Recently he volunteered for I-9 Audits (a fascist program conducted by the Immigration Customs and Enforcements that checks the immigration status of all workers) and fired immigrant workers. A new comrade said it was powerful to have a specific target as we chanted and marched for revolution in the future.

As the march ended, Oakland Mayor Jean Quan showed up in a red dress, looking for a photo op. A comrade spotted her while another announced on the bullhorn: "There's Jean Quan. She sent OPD to attack Occupy Oakland." Someone near her booed, and the crowd took it up. The boos changed to the chant "Jean Quan go home." A young black man asked to use our bullhorn and marched towards her announcing: "Jean Quan supports S-Comm!" (Secure communities, a police program.) She left!

After the march, we ate and toasted revolution and communism. From a friend: "It was sooo good to celebrate May Day with my red friends. The food was yummy and the conversation is always rich and lively." The future is bright!

Workers worldwide continue to fight for a better life. However, if we see ourselves only as immigrants, we lose. If we see ourselves only as citizens, we lose. We belong to only one class — we are the producers of the en-

Immigration Forum

PLP held a forum on the immigrants' rights bill and internationalism before May Day. We had a first-hand report from workers from Guatemala on the role of Rios Monte and U.S. imperialism in terrorizing the indigenous population and the subsequent migration of tens of thousands to Mexico and the U.S. They want to organize a protest about Rios Monte's trial at the consulate here.

Also, we are in contact with immigrant workers in Mi Pueblo Supermarket, DoBake Factory and Trader Joe's who have been fired due to "silent raids" known as I-9 audits. We are supporting their battles. These struggles provide more opportunity to make international working-class unity a reality. The forum gave many concrete examples of how an alliance between the ruling imperialists and nation-based capitalists has created the unemployment and misery that tens of millions of workers suffer on every continent.

We discussed how immigration reform within the U.S. is one more strategy to create divisions, without end, among the working class. This helps the capitalist rulers to control and exploit everyone. The labor movement leadership, the political government apparatus, and the media are all part of their game. This bill foments resentment between black workers and Latino workers who face the dilemmas of subsistence wages and unemployment.

The forum concluded: When we fight back, we are honoring those who fought, those who died. We don't want an apology for these slaughters. Instead we hold up a vision of a revolutionary movement to build the society that they fought for, a world of equality. Capitalism can't be fixed. We need revolution! Abolish the wage system. Production for need — real communism! This is the movement we took to the May Day March!

tire world's riches — the working class. When we unite as one class, which dismantles the rulers' emphasis on borders, ethnicity, gender, "race," nationality or heritage, WE WIN.☺

CHICAGO

"It comes down to: who do I trust with my life? It sure isn't the capitalists. I trust you all."

This closing sentiment from a young comrade at our annual May Day dinner received a round of applause.

As everyone clapped in the colorfully decorated hall, one could see why he would put his life in our hands. The room was filled with women and men workers of all backgrounds, united in a common goal. It was an inspiring sight!

The love and camaraderie people showed for one another made it obvious that we should trust each other and trust the working class as a whole to create a better society for everyone.

Our dinner's theme was "A Vision of Communism." Lately, with the miseries of capitalism especially obvious to us and our friends, we wanted to be positive and optimistic. One skit, "Before and After," showed a medical drama set in the current capitalist world and then re-imagined it in a communist future.

There were multiple songs sung as a group including "Power to the Workers," "Bella Ciao," and, of course, "The Internationale." Two poems read by young black women were quite

moving. Two speeches, both by young black men who are PL leaders here, covered local struggles and international news, as well as personal stories of these comrades' experiences in PLP.

A teacher related her experiences in the Chicago Teachers' Union and what education might look like in a communist world. Another spoke about the fightback he is helping to lead against his school becoming a "turnaround" school.

Overall our May Day celebration was a success. The food was plentiful and delicious. The audience, a majority of them black and Latino youth, responded enthusiastically to the speeches, poems and songs. Approximately 125 people attended the dinner and helped us raise needed funds. We also added six new subscribers to our CHALLENGE list.

Although we worked hard planning a program around the theme, it turns out that having the dinner itself was the best way to envision a communist world. It's a world where everyone — black, Latino, white, Asian, young, old, women and men — is involved in running society for the benefit of all, without the shackles of racism, sexism and capitalism. Power to the working class!☺

TEL AVIV

Thousands of workers, including PLers and friends, marched here with red flags and banners that read "Workers of the World Unite!" to commemorate May Day. We stood in defiance of the increasingly fascist Israeli ruling class and its virulent anti-communist rhetoric. Slogans called for a revolution and the overthrow of the government. Thousands called for social justice, freedom, and equality. While the leadership of this march was, as in the last few decades, in the hands of pseudo leftists, this year huge masses of workers came to celebrate the ideas of May Day.☺

IRAQ



LETTERS

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

PLP Gives Birth to A New Proletarian Internationalism

An international, revolutionary, communist working-class movement is the only alternative to the capitalist destruction of the world and the genocidal massacres of imperialist war. Capitalists created the modern working class by organizing us into collective factory production. In the process, as Marx noted, they were creating their own gravediggers. Social production led workers to grow conscious of ourselves as a class that had no need for the capitalist class that privately owned the means of production and used state power to legalize its violent expropriation of the value of our labor.

Working-class consciousness reached new heights in the communist movement to seize state power by armed revolution. This movement aims to abolish capital, capitalists, and the ideologies that underpin the social relations of capitalism: individualism, racism, sexism, nationalism, and philosophical idealism. Two great communist revolutions, in the Soviet Union and in China, showed the power of the communist vision — and also how hard it is to realize in practice and how easily it can be reversed back into capitalism.

Today it is time to rebuild the organized communist movement, this time on an international basis — one international working class, one international communist party, a new proletarian internationalism. It is time because capitalism is again creating its own gravediggers, now on a global scale. The imperialist powers that dominate the entire world — though bitter rivals among themselves — are creating an international, denationalized labor system.

More than ever, the working class is swept up in a massive tide of migrant labor from poorer to richer capitalist economies. More than ever, workers of different national origins are living in world cities as a single work force. Millions of other workers, conscripted into the bosses' militaries, are moved around the world with no respect to borders.

In short, modern imperialism is creating a new international proletariat. The capitalist bosses are giving us the material basis to organize an international communist party, to revolt against all owning and ruling classes, and to take state power to abolish capital itself. Organized by the international Progressive Labor Party, the new international working class can unleash a revolutionary movement with the communist vision to take power.

Dialectics teaches us about the distinction between appearance and essence. Capitalism appears to be unchallenged and triumphant throughout the world. In essence, however, it is a decaying system that carries the seeds of its own destruction.

Our world cities appear to be passive assemblies of hopelessly oppressed, divided, disarmed, and alienated workers. But in essence, they are launching pads of world revolution.

With this dialectical outlook, a small party like PLP begins to look like the seed of the international party that a communist revolution requires. The apparently local class struggles we join and lead become fertile soil of a new, international, revolutionary practice.

Our political line, while in need of deeper development, begins to look like the renewed stirrings of communist thought after a long, dark night. The obstacles and problems our Party faces are pangs of rebirth. They reflect a new beginning for proletarian internationalism after its historic defeat.

If we take note of the new possibilities of the internationalized working class, we can sustain our hope to internationalize the Progressive Labor Party. None of our work is purely local or national. Every strike and protest and organizing drive — whether in Pakistan or the U.S., Haiti or Colombia — is linked to the international profit system and its preparations for world war. This May Day presents a new opportunity for PLP to build on our advances of the last fifty years and move toward a new proletarian internationalism, a world where "the international working class shall be the human race."

A Comrade

'White skin privilege' — A Bosses' Ideology

I attended a Unitarian church meeting on April 14 in Minneapolis to view a film on "white skin privilege." There were about 30 members of my church there, mostly working-class, antiracist and white. Afterwards we discussed how to sincerely do something about racism.

FRANCE

Nearly 160,000 workers protested the bosses' austerity attacks in 286 May Day marches and rallies in cities across France. They also marched against the ANI — a national agreement giving the bosses extended rights to fix workers' wages, hours, and work locations.

The main demonstrations were organized by the "class struggle" trade union confederations which which oppose the ANI. They continually steer workers into the arms of the "lesser-evil" Socialist Party. They repeatedly call for supposedly neutral government mediation in the Peugeot strike.

In Paris, Peugeot factory workers who are beginning their 16th week on strike formed one of the most militant contingents, chanting "Workers' strength is in striking!"

Many workers in the Paris May Day march attacked the Socialist Party. Jean-Michel, 44, noted that Socialist president "Hollande said [during the presidential election campaign] 'I want to be the enemy of finance' but he has given the bosses 20 billion euros [in tax breaks]."

Ten thousand workers marched in Marseilles, many chanting "no, no to austerity!"

In Bordeaux, (6,000) and in Toulouse (5,700) workers blasted Hollande's austerity attacks. In Lyons, 4,000 marched despite a heavy shower with signs reading "We won't pay for capitalism's crisis," and in Rouen, 2,000 workers, led by oil workers from the bankrupt Petroplus refinery, chanted "death to austerity!"

Self-critically I was not as forthcoming on attacking White Skin Privilege. I hope to attend a Unitarian Convention coming up where PLP members active in the Unitarian church will be addressing it.

I tried to explain that it's a bad ideology because whites are oppressed as workers while blacks are super oppressed workers. I gave the example of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. Black workers made some political gains by being in struggle together with white working-class allies. Otherwise the little we got from the ruling

class as "concessions" we would not have. As one of my antiracist heroes Frederick Douglass aptly said, "Power concedes nothing without struggle." I hope in time to learn ways of challenging it in church as a ruling-class ideology. That is why I want to be at the Unitarian Conference with my Comrades. Communist ideology will win out eventually.

Minnesota Red

May Day Inspires Workers, Students:

'We stand as one! The time is now!'

It was a very exciting and awesome May Day at the State Univeristy of NY in Albany. At 1 pm, students organized by the Student Revolutionary Coalition went through class buldings with signs, pots and pans, yelling "WALK OUT NOW." The students who joined in went around all the buildings, and met at the small fountain in front of the campus center. Students, faculty and staff joined in, about 100 or more people taking part in this rally against corporations such as Sodexo and Coca-Cola at our university. Other demands were about the lack of diverse faculty and staff, and underfunded Africana and Latino Studies departments. Curriculum requirements for global culture classes are being cut while U.S history is still a requirement.

During the rally students took turns talking about what we are fighting for. We are also demanding fair trade products as options in our campus centers. Many custodial workers and food services workers (who are mainly black and Latino) joined us in this rally and also spoke about their struggles. After the rally at the fountain, we walked to the University administration building, where our demands were made clear to the president of the university. "All of our demands are non-negotiable!" one student said, "we will not stop fighting for what we deserve. The time is now — we stand as one!"

It was amazing to see so many dedicated students walk out and stand up against injustice on campus. The president said he would set up a meeting about our concerns. We made it clear we are serious, and not looking for crumbs. The money needed for the things we are demanding is going into new buildings including a fountain and a stadium, while tuition and mandatory student fees are being increased by \$300 and lab fees are going up!

Albany Student

★★★★★

This was my second May Day, and I am more than happy to be part of PLP's undeniable fight for a communist revolution. After being more involved and interacting with new people since last year, I enjoyed May Day more. It was amazing to hear what others had to say, and learn from their experiences and their

struggles. The more I was involved and the more I understood what PLP is trying to overcome, the more I enjoyed May Day. More than anything, it taught me the importance of this holiday.

High School Student

★★★★★

I experienced my first May Day event. It was inspiring to see the skit about Mayor Bloomberg and other bosses shutting down the schools, hospitals and raising bus and train fares. I really related to that particular skit because it showed the effects of capitalism and how workers protest them. I also enjoyed the vibe, how everyone was united and happy. PLP has given me a sip of the bitterness of black coffee that is capitalism. Lots of people in the working class suffer from unemployment, racist Stop-and-Frisk, few resources for youth, prisons and closing schools. I can't wait to be in next year's May Day skit.

Brand New Fighter

★★★★★

PLP celebrated May Day in Brooklyn, helping to fight for the rights of workers. Many workers took a stand. I really enjoyed marching down the streets and chanting with people from different ethnicities. We all stood united and defended communism, which would create a better society for young and old. I used to think the U.S. was a "free country." It really isn't because we, the working people, are being oppressed by the capitalist system. Why do the U.S. bosses try to hide May Day? It's because they want us to be in chains for eternity. But on May Day we proved them wrong. Nothing can stop us from celebrating such a historic day. It will lead to revolution. "Capitalism means we got to fight back!...Bush, Clinton, Obama, koupe tet, boule kay!" These were awesome, workers' chants to let them know we are not afraid of their terror.

Inspired Tilden student

★★★★★

What I liked most about May Day was how people united to fight back. May Day was a great way to come together to fight back against the violence the cops use against black youth, killing innocent people.

Anti-racist Youth

1,000 Students Defy School Bosses in Walkout

NEWARK, NJ, April 30 — On April 9, over 1,000 students walked out of Newark’s schools to protest the bosses’ budget cuts. The action was organized by the newly formed Newark Student Union (NSU), whose courage and organization demonstrated its ability to lead masses of students.

As Newark experiences attacks on education similar to many other cities, this new voice — the NSU — is making itself heard. Consisting of high school students citywide, the NSU has not only given leadership to other students but also to everyone fighting back against the racist attacks.

PLP has always maintained that the main contradiction in education is between the ruling class and the students. That is becoming clearer as we see more cops in schools, curriculums changing to meet the Common Core Standards, increasing class sizes and cutting student services.

The ruling class hasn’t done the best job in keeping this quiet either. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, the bosses need to reform education to meet U.S. imperialism’s requirements for the 21st century.

After hearing about a \$57 million budget cut this coming school year, NSU — although only a few months old — quickly sprung into action. Their first meeting, expecting 15-30 students, had attracted over 170 from four different high schools!

Solidarity with Teachers, Unions

Last month the group held its first demonstration outside the New Jersey Performing Art Center during a Brian Lehrer (WNYC) panel on education with Newark School Superintendent Cami Anderson and Newark Mayor Cory Booker. After students listened for over an hour to Anderson and Booker justifying their dismantling of schools and the union here, they rose up in defiance and began chanting, “Newark Students, Stand Up! Fight Back!” They also showed their unity with their teachers by chanting, “Stop attacking our teachers, their unions, their tenure, and their jobs.”

Walkout

The night before the April 9 walkout, Anderson tried to send an automatic call home to all parents telling them that their students will be suspended if they walk out. She even sent the Assistant Superintendent to one school to try to talk the students out of it. Finally, they ordered a lockdown in all schools five minutes before the walkout took place.

While in some schools students were afraid to walk out (only a dozen made it out of one school), in others, like Science High School, over 300 students walked out through the front door — right past the Assistant Superintendent!

As a result of the NSU’s courage to continue to fight, the Superintendent was forced to backtrack the next day and deny that they tried to keep students from leaving for the protest!

Organize for May Day

PLP students and teachers have participated in these actions and held a meeting to win these students to come to May Day. More than just a communist holiday, May Day gives students the opportunity to see what communism is, and that fighting to stop budget cuts is just a small battle in the much larger battle for communism.☺

STOCKTON, CA

About 250 people came out for the May Day march here. Stockton is a town of many immigrants and farm workers. By all accounts, many are undocumented. The Central Labor Council and immigrants’ rights (mis)leaders organized the march. We missed the speeches by the Mayor and other politicians. PLers distributed a leaflet saying, “Nothing short of equality is acceptable.” We must identify ourselves as one working class — the producers of all wealth. Therefore, we must share all that we produce with the international working-class. The only acceptable justice for immigrants and all workers cannot be anything short of a communist revolution.☺

Mass Murder of Garment Workers in Bangladesh

Burn the Bosses

The Obama administration has rationalized its threat to punish Syria for using chemical weapons on “humanitarian” grounds (see page 2). Yet the “humanitarian” U.S. bosses — Walmart, Sears, J.C. Penney, GAP, Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, among others — have reaped billions in profits from the super-exploitation and killing of garment workers in Bangladesh. The latest atrocity is the sexist, racist murder of over 800 mainly-women workers (and counting) in Dhaka in a building collapse in which threatening cracks had been discovered the day before — follows two fires which killed hundreds more when the bosses blocked exits. And it’s one and the same with the attack on workers that killed ten residents of West, Texas, where a hazard-prone fertilizer factory fire virtually destroyed the entire town.

Thousands of garment workers took to the streets in Dhaka, smashing vehicles with bamboo poles, and setting fire to at least two factories. The protests ricocheted among the city’s industrial sections as workers vented their fury, damaging more than 150 vehicles, demanding the death penalty for the owner of the Rana Plaza building, Sohel Rana, who is involved in the country’s ruling party, the Awami League.

Before the building collapsed, workers had “notified the police, government officials and a powerful garment industry group about cracks in the walls” (New York Times, 4/26) but the building was not padlocked. Supervisors beat workers back into the factory, with threats of firing. A local journalist at the scene said “local police...did not appear concerned and instead warned him not to run a story....A police supervisor...said an engineer had inspected the

cracks and had found no problems.”

In a nearby industrial district protesters smashed five garment factories and clashed with the cops, as well as blocked traffic on a major highway.

Bangladesh has the lowest wages in the world. The 3.2 million garment workers earn as little as \$37 a month, mostly women slaving away in 5,000 factories. For making a Nike shirt retailing for \$28, workers are paid 0.08 cents. Even if wages were tripled, workers would still get less than one cent per shirt produced.

Over 3,000 workers were in the building when it collapsed. The lower floors were evacuated (including a bank branch) but those on the upper floors — which it turned out were illegally constructed — were ordered to keep working.

A workplace monitor from the University of California at Berkeley told the Times (4/26) that the prices Western companies pay “are so low that they are at the root of why these factories are cutting corners on fire safety and building safety.”

“I wouldn’t call it an accident,” said one minister. “I would say it’s murder.”

These murders will continue as long as capitalism exists, based on its constant need to expand globally to rake in maximum profits among the lowest-wage workers it can exploit. The killings in Syria and Bangladesh are the product of this bosses’ international fight. Join us Wednesday, May 15 at 5 PM as we rally in front of the Bangladeshi Consulate in New York City near Grand Central.☺

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

Black and Latino workers hard-hit

Harvard Magazine, May 2013 — When the national unemployment average hit double figures in October 2009 — for the first time in more than a quarter century — it was major news. But unemployment among black men had already been in the double digits for most of the last several decades. Unemployment rates also topped 10 percent among Latino men during the Great Recession — but not among white males.

Unemployment rates alone do not reveal the full extent of the job crisis affecting many low-income communities....We show the combined rates of unemployment among males by racial and ethnic group. (Involuntary part-time workers are those who would like to work a 40-hour-per-week job but have had their hours curtailed or are unable to find full-time employment.) As the data indicate, economic cycles — particularly the deep recessions the United States experienced recently and in the early 1980s — affected rates of employment and underemployment among black and Latino males much more severely than among their white counterparts.

Jackie Robinson ‘can’t salute flag’

NYT, 4/7 — In the film [‘42’] we don’t get to see the Dodgers play the Yankees in that [1947 world]] series. But listen to [Jackie] Robinson, in his 1972 autobiogra-

phy, “I Never Had It Made,” as he writes about Game 1 at Yankee Stadium:

“Today as I look back on that opening game of my first World Series, I must tell you that....I cannot stand and sing the anthem. I cannot salute the flag. I know that I am a black man in a white world. In 1972, in 1947, at my birth in 1919, I know that I never had it made.”

Business neglect = big ‘accidents’

NYT, 4/29 — To the Editor:

The loss of life is tragic no matter how it happens, but we cannot chalk industrial catastrophes up to “accident....” Incidents like the factory explosion in West, Tex., are often preventable. Corporate negligence and poor government oversight drastically increase the risk that they will happen....

Over time, these incidents create far more death and misery than that caused by bombings, which...are extremely rare.

Bombs mobilize our fears, but the daily devastation wreaked by corporate negligence is also tragic, and it will become only more so if we allow it to remain hidden.

Economists call system hopeless

NYT, 4/24 — Last week the International Monetary Fund hosted a conference of some of the world’s top macroeconomists to assess...the...crisis....

After five years of coping with the consequences of the disaster, there is still so much uncertainty about

what polices are needed to prevent another financial shock from tipping the world economy into the abyss again a few years down the road.

“We....really don’t have much of a clue.”

Cops in schools: kids affected badly

NYT, 4/19 —A growing body of research suggests that...a larger police presence in schools generally does little to improve safety. It can also create a repressive environment in which children are arrested or issued summonses for minor misdeeds — like cutting class or talking back — that once would have been dealt with by the principal....

In the mid-1970s, police patrolled about 1 percent of schools. By 2008, the figure was 40 percent....

The presence of the officers did not drive down crime....Routine disciplinary problems began to be treated as criminal justice problems....

Children as young as 12 have been treated as criminals for shoving matches and even adolescent misconduct like cursing in schools....Young people who spend time in adult jails are likely to have problems with law enforcement later on. Moreover, federal data suggests a pattern of discrimination in the arrests, with black and Hispanic children more likely to be affected than their white peers.

MAY DAY: BUILDING PLP, MARCH FOR WORKERS' POWER

WASHINGTON, DC

Over 150 marchers — workers and students, white, black, Latino and Iranian — rallied with a banner and brought the message of class struggle, anti-racism, internationalism and revolution to thousands of workers in D.C.

The march ended on a bold note — a Howard University student grabbed the South African Apartheid flag out of the hands of a racist in front of the White House and burned it on the ground.

We began at Malcolm X Park and marched through working-class neighborhoods and commercial areas, ending at the White House to tell the U.S. government that the working class is on the move against capitalism!

PLP distributed over 150 CHALLENGEs and mobilized their friends at Howard University, Stoddert Terrace public housing, and Metro transit, creating a red-led worker-student-community alliance in the fight against racism and for communism.

The pre-march rally had a range of militants who discussed the fight against imperialist war; Obama's drone murders; the U.S. concentration camps at Guantanamo Bay (Gitmo) in Cuba; the struggle for more, bigger, and more militant unions; fighting racist mass incarceration; avenging the murder of over 800 Bangladeshi garment workers; and the need to smash capitalism.

Two highlights were speeches by two Metro workers from the D.C. transit system. She described the sharpening attacks on bus drivers and other transit workers and the growing battle to fight Metro's racist policies. These including its ban on hiring ex-prisoners, management's threat to privatize many of the runs on Metro, and their general assault on wages, benefits, and working conditions. She declared that only a militant, anti-racist fight that shuts the system down could make any progress in this struggle. The other Metro worker declared that May Day was critical in unifying the global working class against an increasingly destructive capitalist system headed for war and renewed economic crisis.

The D.C. Labor chorus led the assembled workers in working-class songs like "Solidarity Forever," a stirring pro-revolutionary version of the spiritual "Soon and Very Soon," and concluded with singing the Internationale in English, Spanish, and Arabic.

Having built up steam, the marchers burst onto the streets behind the banner (see photo) with chants of "Asian, Latin, Black, and White, Workers of the World, Unite."

"Whose streets? our streets, What day, May Day"

"Racism Means, We got to fight back."

But trouble was brewing. Marchers identified two plainclothes cops who had infil-



trated the march. A clash erupted with two arrests of marchers. Boldly defying police orders, the marchers changed their route to occupy a GAP clothing store in solidarity with workers in Bangladesh.

Over 800 were murdered in a factory collapse prompted by the profit-driven bosses in the U.S. and Britain (see page 7). These bosses insist on getting their clothes at the lowest possible "globalized" price, leading to bosses in Bangladesh forcing textile workers back to work even after their building had shown big cracks that would lead to a total collapse and hundreds of deaths.

The cops attacked the marchers, viciously shoving them out of the GAP store, throwing them on the sidewalk, smashing the bullhorn, and arresting one more marcher, who they spirited out the store's back door. Chanting, "We'll be back!" the marchers returned their focus to the U.S. imperialist monsters and headed for the White House where they encountered racist scum flying the Confederate flag and the South African Apartheid flag! That's when that flag was burned. One more arrest was made in this anti-racist confrontation.

Elated at the militant spirit of the day, marchers vowed to return to their workplaces, schools, and communities to continue the struggle against racism and capitalism. Crucial to this is consolidation of our forces into a disciplined revolutionary party, the PLP, that can sharpen these battles and lead toward victory over capitalism.✪



LOS ANGELES

This year's PLP May Day activities focused on the importance of building our party to organize the revolutionary communist movement. Comrades and friends reviewed the PL-led struggles of the past year, from organizing in Occupy LA to fighting police brutality in Anaheim to mobilizing high school students against LA Unified School District's fascist conditions.

High school teachers from LA and Oakland detailed the school campaigns against those conditions, from locked bathrooms and random student searches to exposing the tying of teacher evaluations to

test scores. Another comrade noted their struggles in opposing police brutality and repression in Anaheim which mobilized many young working-class people throughout the area. A healthcare worker revealed the development of the international work in Haiti.

Communist poetry from working-class struggles in Latin America and in the U.S. was shared in English and Spanish, including a performance by High School youth who performed a reading of Langston Hughes' "Good Morning Revolution." Everything was arranged collectively, from the pot-luck dinner to the decorations to the childcare. Everyone left reinvigorated for another year of struggle.

Today, there were a few marches in downtown LA. PLP participated in the one organized by various

immigrant rights groups and the LA County Federation of Labor which called for immigration reform. Early on, our contingent confronted Eric Garcetti and his supporters marching near us. Garcetti is a local politician running for mayor on a pro-immigration, pro-labor platform, with Barack Obama's endorsement.

After confronting a leader of the Garcetti contingent who felt we were too close to them, we made it clear we had no interest in being associated with Garcetti by chanting "Tenemos Que Luchar!" (We must fight back!").

Along with thousands of workers, we marched through the heart of downtown waving our red flags and chanting with our fists in the air. As we marched, workers in factories waved, cheered and put their fists out the windows as we passed by. People who didn't make it to the dinner came out for the march. We led strong chants and gave short speeches about the recent garment factory collapse in Bangladesh, tying the struggles of the garment workers in LA to others around the world.

Progressive Labor Party proclaimed the spirit of May Day in chanting and marching for workers' power and communism.✪

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