

CHALLENGE



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'Education, Not Racist Experimentation!'



necessary because there are no high-quality options in the district, despite some highly-rated schools close by, including one two blocks away. These schools are already under-enrolled, making them under-funded as well, and could now continue to lose significant numbers of students if parents choose the new school. The bosses have not yet even assessed this school by their own standards. They are calling it high-quality without even having given it state tests (the bosses' favorite tool to determine "quality").

Students Take the Lead

The bosses attack even so-called successful schools, with constant budget cuts, school reorganization and colocations. A student slogan in this fight at Tilden is "Education, not Racist Experimentation." They see that the DOE makes decisions about black and Latino working-class schools, which attack their education.

Capitalism will never serve the needs of the working class. To maintain their system, the ruling class needs a reserve of unemployed workers and youth to use as cannon fodder in their imperialist wars. A communist system will truly educate workers and students to lead society. Under communism, the need to educate all to their fullest potential would be realized.

Before the Soviet Union became capitalist, education was a priority. Students with the highest needs were given the most resources. In "Soviet Education: Achievements and Goals," Elizabeth Moos writes, "...Now pupils were given not only self-government but control over programs and teachers...Pupils were given experience in the democratic process as citizens of their school community" (p 12).

Contrast that with capitalist education, a system that looks to control the minds and actions of our youth, not promote critical thinking and action. And so while we fight for the survival of our schools and against the immediate attacks of the capitalist education system, Tilden students, parents and teachers need to see that we must fight against capitalist education as a whole.

We are working on building that unity within this class struggle. PLers in the school are working with the Student Activism club, Student Government, the PTA, and the union chapters. We're forging strong unity among the three schools in the building, unusual for many campus schools. There has been outreach by students and teachers to nearby elementary schools to build unity with other teachers and parents throughout the district.

We will fight this colocation tooth and nail because it's important to train our youth to fight back. As capitalism's economic crisis sharpens, the only real alternative will be to have a clear understanding that this system benefits only the capitalist class. We have a world to win!✊



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War Looms over U.S.-China-Iraq Battle for Oil

The sharpening rivalry between U.S. imperialism and China threatens armed conflict across the globe. From Iraq to Africa, as profit-seeking bosses go to war over oil, gas, uranium and other natural resources, more masses of workers worldwide will be killed. Millions of others will be driven deeper into poverty by the bosses' super-exploitation in extracting these resources. For the international working class, the only answer to these horrors is a communist revolution to destroy their source — capitalism.

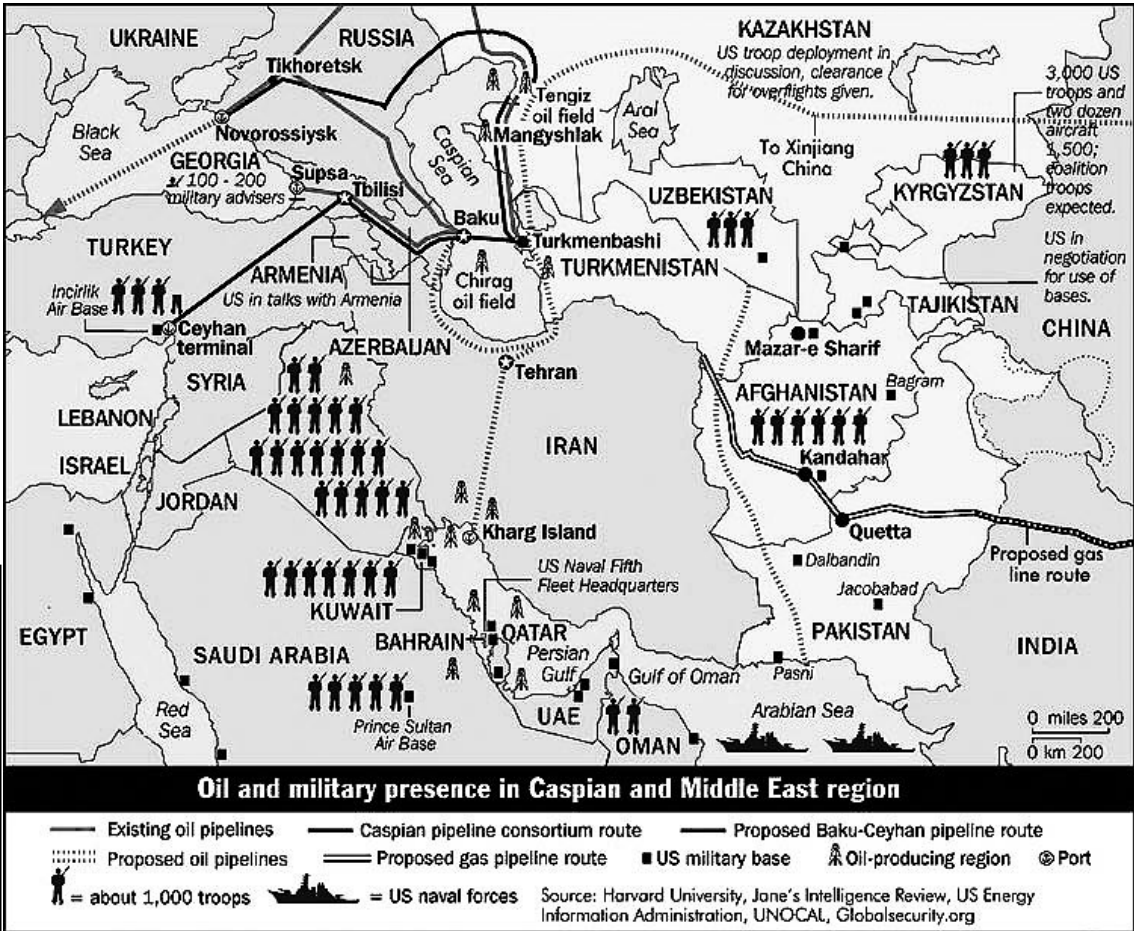
Late last month, Barack Obama sent 100 U.S. troops to Niger in Western Africa to establish a drone base. Aimed allegedly at al Qaeda, the unmanned assassination tools will menace China's growing uranium operations there. (Niger is the world's fourth largest uranium producer.) Meanwhile, Iraqi rulers are pressuring Exxon Mobil to sell its stake in a vast oil field to a Chinese firm. Exxon has countered with deals with

OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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the Kurds in northern Iraq, a move that could unleash a civil war.

U.S. Air Force personnel in Niger belong to the Pentagon's Africa Command. Created in 2007, AFRICOM's main mission is to combat the Islamic terrorists who pose a real problem for U.S. and allied rulers, as shown by a February attack on a British Petroleum gas plant in Algeria. According to J. Peter Pham, a lecturer at the U.S. Army War College, AFRICOM's second mission is "protecting access to... strategic resources which Africa has in abundance" and "ensuring that no other interested third parties, including China, India, Japan, and Russia, obtain monopolies or preferential treatment" (World Defense Review, 10/2/08).

While Obama's Niger move helps France's efforts

Washington Imposes its Strategy in Mali

(From le Canard enchaîné, 2/20/13)

In Washington on February 13, John Carson, the deputy secretary of state for African affairs, was heard by the House Committee on Foreign Relations behind closed doors. But excerpts...have...been transmitted to Paris by the French military attachés stationed at the French embassy. An example: "A counter-terrorist operation in northern Mali proves to be necessary...but in no case is this operation to be put in the hands of the United Nations.... These clandestine operations...will...be conducted as far as southern Libya...."

Above all, as is recognized by...the French Defense Minister, "the collaboration of the Americans and the British as concerns intelligence" is always very effective, which compensates a little bit for Washington's bad manners in fixing strict limits for Paris's African allies. According to several diplomats, the Americans don't want the French to be "in a leading position" in this Sahel zone where one can prospect for uranium, oil and gas.

Why Articles Are Not Signed

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

to stave off al Qaeda and recolonize neighboring Mali (see box), it also serves the U.S. strategy to dominate China's energy sources. As the Washington Post noted, "The drones will be based at first in the capital, Niamey. But military officials eventually want to move them north to the city of Agadez" (2/22/13). It's no coincidence that the Sonima uranium mine, where China is the biggest shareholder, lies in the Agadez region.

Exxon Confronts Iraq's Premier over Oil

An even hotter U.S.-China confrontation is brewing in Iraq. For two years, Exxon Mobil has battled Iraqi prime minister Nouri al-Maliki — who is pro-China and a favorite of Iran — over oil profits. Out of the U.S.-led slaughter of more than a million Iraqis, Exxon won the right to exploit the West Qurna-1 oilfield, Iraq's biggest. But because U.S. rulers are divided and strapped for cash, they were unable to impose control with an effective military occupation.

Seizing on U.S. rulers' weaknesses, Maliki put the screws on Exxon, which now gets less than two dollars per barrel as a service fee. The Iraqi bosses, the legal owners of the crude, then sell the oil for forty times Exxon's fee.

Exxon's temporary possession of the oil, and its ability to dictate West Qurna-1's pumping rate, played to the advantage of U.S. capitalism. But Exxon requires profits as well as access. It wanted the same deal with Maliki that it made with the Kurds. In 2011, the U.S. empire struck back.

Exxon began cutting a more lucrative oil-drilling deal with Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish Regional Government. Maliki went ballistic, demanding that Exxon sell its West Qurna stake and signaling that he would "favor bids by China National Petroleum Company and [Russian] Lukoil" (Reuters, 12/20/12).

Condoleezza Rice Threatens Maliki with Saddam's Fate

To warn Maliki that he could end up like Saddam Hussein, Exxon hired three of the bloodiest mass murderers from the second Iraq war as advisors. They are ex-Secretary of State (and Chevron director) Condoleezza Rice, ex-national security advisor Stephen Hadley, and James Jeffrey, the former U.S. ambassador to Iraq (National Journal, 2/15/13). All hail from the George H.W. Bush regime, further proof that the first Gulf War was also waged for oil. They are acting without reproach from either Obama or the liberal media, a clear sign of approval from the dominant finance capital wing of U.S. capitalists that controls Exxon.

To make the message even clearer, Exxon-allied bosses formed the United States-Kurdistan

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Capitalism-As-Usual Pro-Boss Union Hacks End Bus Strike, Workers Have No Say

NEW YORK CITY, February 24 — After standing strong through a month-long strike in bitter cold, rain and snow, striking New York City school bus workers were told by their Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1181 “leaders” to end their strike and return to work February 20. The order came via a teleconference that let the sellouts dodge any questions and avoid any objection to ending this strike. And the workers were not permitted to vote on this decision.

The role of the union leaders became increasingly clear to the workers. On the last day of picketing, workers at one site did not receive their weekly check while the union representative boasted that “you are damn right, I received mine.” Workers were furious and talked about picketing the union headquarters demanding their full pay. This union hack actually thought what he did was more important than what the striking workers were doing.

The workers were striking for their jobs; they work for companies that have contracts with the NYC school system, which put the contracts up for new bids. In a 1979 strike, the workers won the right to keep their jobs and benefits with any new contractor, but the city provoked the 2013 strike by refusing to continue to honor those gains. The city intends to replace the current workforce with low-wage non-union workers.

For the last two weeks of the strike, misleaders of the NYC Central Labor Council, and the local and international ATU had been begging for a “face-saving” way to end the strike. They asked Mayor Bloomberg to delay bids on bus routes and negotiate for three months while workers returned to work. Bloomberg refused — but when a group of Democratic Party candidates for the 2013 mayoral election signed a statement pledging to respect seniority rights if elected, the phonies seized on this statement to declare victory and end the strike.

But, as we well know, politicians will promise anything to get themselves elected! This hollow promise is not a contract and won’t protect the jobs of workers. The new bids will allow bus companies to hire workers without regard to seniority, enabling them to replace higher-paid workers with lower-paid ones. A revolving-door system of newly-hired workers will likely replace the existing stable, reliable long-term workforce.

Throughout the strike, PL’ers took part in picket lines and support activities, brought friends and co-workers, and had wide-ranging discussions with strikers on issues that workers face. We explained that we wanted to support and spread the strike and talk to union members about why ultimately workers need to take power. Many workers wanted to discuss issues larger than the strike itself and welcomed our communist ideas. Many workers saw this as part of the crisis of capitalism and knew that the class struggle would continue after the strike ended.

Primarily we discussed how U.S. capitalism’s efforts to maintain its supremacy in the world economic order was driving attacks on the living standards of the working class all over the U.S. Many immigrant workers related the struggle here to those in the countries they came from. We also discussed the nature of the union leadership, their ties to the bosses and the bosses’ system.

The union leaders tried to build passivity in the workers, telling them what to do and when. But if what we saw on the picket lines is any example of the militancy and class consciousness of the workers in this union, this battle is far from over.

Now we are continuing our discussions about what winning would mean. A grouping of bus workers meeting with PL’ers to learn about our ideas and activities will be a step forward. This will lead to an even stronger fight as layoffs and contract fights loom. Recruitment of friends we have met on the picket lines will bring the day closer when we can rid ourselves of the capitalist yoke once and for all.

We invite all of the striking drivers and matrons to march on May Day, so that we can honor their fighting spirit and inspire other workers and students to fight back.☺



Haiti: Student Strike Supporters Champion Communist Internationalism

“Everything we do now counts.” Revolutionaries in the international PLP often say this. We mean that you have to see every act of organizing workers, right now, as one step in the communist movement we are rebuilding one step at a time. You have to hang on to that belief, especially now, when the working class often loses everyday reform battles, the strikes and protests which CHALLENGE covers. We need a mass communist party which can unify all our struggles, redouble our strength, and raise the idea of taking back from our exploiters all the value which we create as workers and which they steal from us in the form of profits.

The student support letter from Haiti for the NYC school bus strike (CHALLENGE, 2/27) raised that idea as an international goal, saying workers “from everywhere must unite to fight together under the red flag.” Their message of support counts because it lifts the strikers’ eyes from a local struggle which they may not win to their broader power, as one international class, to change the game entirely. This generation of radical students in Haiti has fought and lost many battles (and won a few), but they refuse to despair.

As they graduate and become workers themselves, they will keep fighting, many of them, because they have the hope that a unified, international, communist-led working class can win the world. That is why they wrote this letter. For them, and for us all, it counts because it represents one small example of that revolutionary hope and resolve which an international communist movement can bring to workers who may often lose their local battles.

In Haiti despair is precisely what the bosses hope to create (read any media story on Haiti). But unionized teachers and bus drivers and conductors, who have themselves led many bitter struggles with little immediate gain (see teachers’ strike stories in CHALLENGE issues of November and December), also wrote letters of support to the ATU Local 1181 strikers. They don’t have the revolutionary fire of the student letter, but they ring true as messages between workers in struggle from different countries. They count as refusals to accept defeat. They rise above local despair to find hope in our potential power as an international class.

The laid-off bus drivers of Port-au-Prince, for example, call in their letter for “respect for the agreements ratified by all the unionized countries of the world — as well as for respect of our human rights as workers.” This is respect they totally find lacking themselves in Haiti! They were all fired five years ago for striking (like the air traffic controllers under Reagan), even though that is illegal under Haitian labor law.

They have not won their jobs back to this day, and unemployment in Haiti is a life sentence. Yet they still keep alive the idea of internationalism, albeit in liberal form. They still see the point of calling for respect of workers as an international human right. They point to agreements that have been won by workers’ union strength internationally — even though

they themselves are proof that under the bosses’ dictatorship such liberal labor laws and treaties, and human rights talk in general, are often not worth the paper they’re printed on!

Also, the bus drivers’ letter thanks workers from the U.S., including transport workers, “who have always brought their support to us through the different problems we have encountered in Haiti.” Obviously this is not true of the sellout international transport union leaders! But these workers in Haiti have seen such support first-hand from rank-and-file unionists over several years, and they know it counts. They respond by writing to the NYC strikers because they know that counts too. These are small steps to proletarian internationalism, but they count.

To the multinational workers of Local 1181 (not a few from Haiti), a letter like this must be recognizable as a letter from a brother and a sister. It must make them feel they do have that bond as workers — in the same industry, in this case — although the bosses’ frontiers try to separate them. It’s the job of revolutionaries to transform that bond into communist comradeship.

The teachers’ letter to Local 1181 strikers sounds the same internationalist note:

The struggle for job security, attacked more and more by bosses and governments during this capitalist crisis, is one we have in common. It deserves the highest international solidarity. That’s why from Haiti we strongly support this strike.

This message too doesn’t wave the red flag, but is it far from doing so? It shows that each group of strikers, in whatever country, faces a common enemy, the capitalist system, with its constant crises and its bond between bosses and the state. It calls for international solidarity in a common class struggle against a common class enemy.

This too must ring true to the strikers in New York; they know workers everywhere (in their first countries, for example) have the same problems, though “in different degrees,” as the student letter put it. It’s the job of PL’ers to raise that truth to a higher level and recruit strikers in New York and teachers and transport workers in Haiti to the Party.

Out of these temporary, but real and cruel, defeats in the class struggles of today can come victory. Each struggle strengthens our forces for the next struggle and especially our efforts to create that mass PLP we need for victory in “the final struggle” which the red anthem the “Internationale” sings of.

These letters from Haiti should inspire us. The key to the bosses’ victories at present is that they hold state power. So everything that weakens their grip on that, and strengthens our forces, counts; everything — the smallest thing — we do right now to build a PLP capable of seizing that power from them counts. The letters from our comrades and friends in Haiti are a living example.☺

United Action Challenges S.F School Downsizing



SAN FRANCISCO, February 24 — Several hundred students, faculty, and supporters occupied the administration building of City College of San Francisco (CCSF). They were challenging state bosses’ plans for cuts to classes, programs, faculty and staff, and to limit community colleges to full-time students transferring to 4-year colleges or earning vocational certificates. The changes, if they go through, could turn working-class students’ dream of lifelong learning and chances at a good living into a nightmare of lifelong debt slavery and grinding servitude to the ruling class.

Under the bosses’ “Student Success”

initiative, even those allowed to continue in community colleges would graduate with tens of thousands of dollars in debt which they could neither pay off with low-paying jobs, nor escape from by filing bankruptcy.

Students are demanding that all the cuts be reversed, and that Proposition A tax money, approved by the voters to save City College, be used precisely for that, and not by the bosses. They are demanding town hall meetings at all campuses to help students organize. The bosses want to go forward with a list of 14 demands from the accreditation agency for downsizing and more administrative

control at the colleges. The student-worker campaign is demanding that the agency’s changes be scrapped.

The strong points of the struggle are solidarity between students, faculty, and the community. Two to three times the number of expected people showed up at a recent community meeting. The weak points are Internal tensions between some people’s desire to “fix” the school by bowing to the accreditation agency’s demands for downsizing and administrative control.

This contrasts with others’ call for a more wide-ranging fight against the

bosses’ national educational agenda of downsizing, privatization, and control of teachers and students with standardized testing.

The fact is education under capitalism follows the golden rule: those who have the gold make the rules. These bosses’ rules push racism, sexism, and the idea that capitalism is the best system possible. No matter how many reforms may be won, the schools will always teach the bosses’ ideology. PLers involved are discussing the communist vision of education where we work to serve society. Stay tuned.☺

‘Restructuring’: Latest Racist Attack on Working-Class Students

MASSACHUSETTS — As inter-imperialist rivalry and the worldwide capitalist crisis continue to deepen, the U.S. ruling class is forcing the government to restructure public schools, healthcare, and other public services, like the Post Office. Its twofold goals are to enforce cutbacks and centralize control. These cutbacks in higher education severely effect working-class students’ access to colleges and universities. After the revolts in universities in the 1970s and 1980s, the ruling class created community colleges to appease the masses. This tricked many working-class students, including immigrants, into believing they were getting a piece of the “american dream.”

Now, as the needs of the ruling class are changing, working-class students are under attack. The bosses no longer need as many workers with college degrees. The government is more tightly controlling local institutions and intimidating workers in community colleges. For bosses to gain maximum profits and control, options for many working-class students are limited to either a low-paying job, or the military for benefits and the lie of secure employment and/or citizenship.

Restructuring public community colleges to serve corporations more efficiently is one way the U.S. ruling class is trying to boost its profitability. More importantly, the bosses need to control the colleges to reproduce the racist, sexist inequalities and the ideologies to justify it. By using their state power in this way, they expose themselves as a class dictatorship rather than a democracy.

Governor Deval Patrick takes his marching orders from the ruling class to restructure the community colleges. He is relying on the Boston Foundation (BF), a liberal think tank, to plan and execute it.

In 2011, the BF issued a report entitled: “The Case for Community Colleges: Aligning Higher Education and Workforce Needs in Massachusetts.” BF

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has assets of \$860 million spread out among hundreds of non-government organizations (NGOs) set up to serve the ruling class, whether these employees know it or not. Local politicians and administrators, who serve the bosses and want to maximize profits in local industries, tightly control NGO leaders.

By limiting working-class students’ access to education and training with low-level certificate programs under the “workforce development” agenda, a larger pool of contingent labor is created. These students are to work for low pay without unions or decent benefits. This opens the door to diminishing wages and working conditions for all workers. The push towards vocational education has created what is known as the “Crisis in Higher Public Education.”

With a national perspective, the BF report applauds community college systems that are “doing a good job” of complying with bosses that could be “models for reform” here. Corporations work through the government and foundations to develop the desired workforce.

Forbes lists Virginia as the best state for business due in part to its investment in workforce development programs. Virginia leadership assigns the task of “saving the middle class” to their community colleges, slowly chipping away the few choices these students have.

Washington State was the first to systematically implement “performance based metrics.” This means offering financial rewards for the community colleges who achieve milestones set by the state board and denying or limiting funding to those community colleges who do not comply. “A college’s ability to achieve these success points has an impact on its basic funding allocation from the state” the report reads.

This “carrot-and-stick” approach

A reform in education is a restructuring of a capitalist institution in order to better control our class. We must build a worker-student alliance in order to fight against these cutbacks and control.

to governance has already been implemented by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education in some instances since the 1990s. This means funding hinges on complying with the bosses’ agenda. The ruling class is preparing for more centralized control of our class, as it prepares for greater war in the Middle East.

The BF report attacks community colleges as being “uncooperative and hard to work with,” blaming them for failures in the educational system as well as for unemployment and underemployment here. It calls for fascist tactics of bullying and terror to control staff and faculty at community colleges by threatening to withhold funding for jobs and programs if the schools fail the “performance metrics.” These metrics are the yardstick that will punish the college workers who cannot measure up to imposed state standards.

However, attacks on education hurts students the most, as they are forced to accept cutbacks and fed anti-communist ideology. Models with

reduced or accelerated developmental education are praised by the BF report for helping to boost graduation rates. This limits working-class youth’s access to college-level education, and feeds into institutional racism by holding down the most vulnerable of our working-class sisters and brothers: black and latino urban youth.

PLers are participating in a union committee that aims to give leadership to the faculty, staff, and students to fight back against the ruling class’s plans to vocationalize the community colleges. We are also participating in a newly formed caucus, Educators for a Democratic Union, which is dedicated to fighting back against the attacks on working-class students and teachers. Through this work, we are meeting people who we can introduce to PLP’s idea.

PLP needs to win faculty and students to understand that the restructuring of the community colleges is not a response to a temporary crisis, but rather a response to an unsolvable contradiction of the capitalist system that will require fascism to stay afloat. Under capitalism, competition forces technological advancement, putting millions out of work. The capitalist’s ability to produce outpaces their ability to sell what they produce. This causes mass unemployment, underemployment, economic crisis, and war to become permanent features of society.

A reform in education is a restructuring of a capitalist institution in order to better control our class. We must build a worker-student alliance in order to fight against these cutbacks and control. In the struggle, PLers can win college workers and students to destroy this system that churns out racism and sexism, and build an egalitarian society: communism.☺

Execution of Ex-Cop Reveals LAPD's Rampant Racism

In 2007, Christopher Dorner, a three-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and former U.S. Navy Lieutenant, accused a fellow officer of kicking and punching a mentally ill man while handcuffing him. The claim of excessive force was declared “unfounded” and subsequently Dorner was fired in 2009 for “making false statements.”

Dorner issued a manifesto accusing the LAPD of using excessive force, of being racist and of firing him for raising those issues through official channels. He retaliated by vowing to kill cops and did so, as well as killing some family members of one and vowed to kill others. Such tactics will not fulfill Dorner's aim of “reforming” the LAPD. Yes, the LAPD has a long history of racism and of brutalizing the working class of Los Angeles — but it cannot be reformed.

Now Dorner is dead, which is exactly where the LAPD wanted him. They had no intention of capturing him alive and allowing him to use a trial to tell what he knows about the racist evils rampant in the 10,000-member LAPD.

A multi-county manhunt for Dorner lasted almost two weeks. The bosses' media tried to convince everyone that the police and sheriffs throughout Southern California were working around the clock to keep us safe from Dorner, but in reality they were only protecting their racist institutions.

In fact, the LAPD demonstrated their racist reputation during this manhunt when, without warning, they shot two innocent Latina women who were delivering newspapers. Seven cops just wildly opened fired from behind them, riddling their truck and the surrounding neighborhood with over 70 bullets as if they were in combat. The semi-automatic fire destroyed the truck which was not even close to the make and color of the real suspect's vehicle. The LA Times reported that in the area there were “bullet holes in cars, trees, garage doors and roofs.”

Fortunately the women weren't seriously injured, yet the round-the-clock coverage kept people in fear, afraid to drive around and get shot by mistake too. People started wearing T-shirts and posting signs on their trucks declaring, “Don't shoot, I'm not Dorner!”

The cops searching for Dorner were using drones, not the first time they were being used to target civilians on United States soil. Drones have been used on the U.S.-Mexico border against migrant workers.

Imperialist wars in the Middle East continue to take the lives of tens of thousands of workers there as well as that of GIs and break apart their families. The returning soldiers are given little or no support to transition back into civilian life. Though we don't champion Dorner's actions, we can see where the problem stems from, because he likely suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from his tour in Iraq with the Naval Reserves and snapped.

The LAPD has been a kind of paramilitary force, pioneering the military-style Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) approach to “policing.” The U.S. military has employed such a tactic in Iraq and Afghanistan — “spray and pray” — which has led directly to the massive civilian casualties in those U.S. invasions.

Some working-class people rooted for Dorner throughout the chase for exposing the police for their various forms of racism against workers and youth they claim to protect. Yet, Dorner's methods and goals to “reform” the police system are flawed. We must not confuse exposing the racist police with actual change. The police are agents who “protect and serve” the ruling class when workers organize around their class interests. No killing spree can end the racism and oppression by the police on working-class people until the system that requires them — capitalism — is smashed through communist revolution.☸

Women: Leaders of Class Struggle and the Revolution

For hundreds of years, women have been leaders and fighters against sexist and racist oppression in the class struggle. They have been instrumental in victories for women and men alike. It's this reality that gave birth to International Women's Day. In celebrating this historic day, members and friends of Progressive Labor Party must shift the discussion to the necessity of anti-sexist struggle within the fight for communism. Capitalism requires sexism; we cannot end sexism without destroying capitalism.

International Women's Day was born out of the working class. The first IWD was held on February 28, 1909, as part of the fight for socialism and against capitalist working conditions throughout the world. It recognized the role of women as essential fighters against sexism and racism. PLP keeps this militant history alive by fighting against sexism and building for communism.

Eliminating sexism hinges on workers holding state power and destroying the divisive capitalist system that thrives on gender inequalities and oppression. In Copenhagen in August 1910, with the leadership of German communist Clara Zetkin, an international conference adopted March 8 as the day to recognize the contributions of women in the class struggle. In 1913, women in Russia demonstrated in observance of the first International Women's Day in Saint Petersburg.

In 1917, the women of St. Petersburg (later renamed Leningrad) let uprisings which sparked the Bolshevik seizure of state power in the October Revolution. They then IWD a national holiday. After seizing state power, the Bolsheviks pioneered many material and social changes in the lives of women, from access to higher education to equality in the workplace. Later, in China after the 1949 revolution, the communist



U.S. garment workers take to the streets against sweatshops.

Eliminating sexism hinges on workers holding state power and destroying the divisive capitalist system that thrives on gender inequalities and oppression.

movement eliminated prostitution, sexist foot-binding and the disparity in literacy between men and women.

As we prepare to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8, the capitalist bosses are intensifying the exploitation of women while pretending to fight against it. In the U.S., women will soon be allowed to serve in combat positions in the U.S. military — a move that Barack Obama and the ruling class media champion as a victory against sexism. But what does this really mean? Many more working-class women will be sent to the front lines to kill and be killed for the profits of U.S. capitalism.

Meanwhile, Sheryl Sandberg, the billionaire chief operating officer of Facebook, wants to build a

new movement to push women to “lean in” and work harder to reach the top tiers in business. Her ideas push the lie that women are to blame for their lack of success, even as the economic crisis hits women — and particularly black and Latino women — the hardest.

With the betrayal of communism around the world, IWD has lost its working-class character. Sexism is an attack on the international working class. It is taught in the schools and media. It corrupts our workplaces and our personal relationships. It permeates the military and infiltrates the mass movements. It abuses, rapes, and murders women every day in every capitalist country. Last November, a fire in a garment sweatshop in Bangladesh killed 112 workers, mostly women, as they made clothes for Walmart. It thrives on the disunity between women and men workers.

We must take back International Working Women's Day and renew our dedication to building a communist movement led by Progressive Labor Party. Raise anti-sexist politics and struggles at the point of production in the workplaces, schools, and mass organizations. Fighting side by side with men, women workers must become leaders of the revolutionary struggle worldwide.☸

Millions Strike in India



Millions of public sector workers went on a two-day general strike to protest the government's increase in fuel prices and opening markets to foreign investment in aviation and insurance. Workers say this will lead to layoffs and more price hikes. Workers are threatening further and longer walkouts if their demands are not heeded. Taxi and rickshaw drivers — victimized by police terror — are warning they'll strike indefinitely as of March 1.

These militant workers, like the bus workers in NYC, are responding to capitalism's attempt to put their economic crisis on workers' backs. Once communist ideas and a party develop a base among these workers, their militancy can be transformed into a revolution that will dump the profit system and promote workers' power.☸

LETTERS

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

Capitalism Kills Philly's Homeless

Terrible things happen to people worldwide because of capitalism. Tens of millions are homeless or live in dangerous conditions because they lack money for rent or mortgages. Misery and sickness come with being homeless, but the capitalist class is concerned only with whether workers will report for the next shift. Life for most working-class families is lived on the edge. The slightest thing can bring disaster.

Philadelphia used to be a "prosperous" city with tens of thousands of industrial jobs. Workers suffered from racism, exploitation and corruption as we do now, but at least almost all could pay rent and buy groceries. That is not true anymore. Many jobs have disappeared forever and the Philadelphia population has declined by 25% since the 1950 high of two million.

Fifty percent of Philadelphia's population is black or Latino, but according to 2006 figures from the Center for Urban Community Services' housing resource center, 86 percent of Philadelphia's homeless are black or Latino. The major cause of homelessness here is racism. Other causes include poverty from a lack of good jobs, minimal government assistance, lack of affordable housing and adequate housing assistance and a lack of affordable health care.

Here on our block in a black neighborhood, a neighbor's house has no heat or water due to damage from a falling tree. The kitchen wall fell into the back yard. She has been unable to get the slightest help from the city. Nine neighbors held a meeting to discuss her dangerous situation and look for answers. But no agency, private or public, will offer her emergency housing or repairs. So she continues to go three times each week to a dialysis center from her freezing house with no water. The house could be condemned at any moment. Then where will she go?

No capitalist society will ever provide safe housing for the working class. Only we workers can and will do that! Until then, racist homelessness and misery will continue to grow around the world. That is why we fight for communism: workers' power.

Philly Worker

Inspired by Passion at Salvador Communist School

Three dozen of us were silent as the Salvadoran comrade spoke. He was a small man and the skin of his face was brown and deeply creased from years in the sun. He did not talk of the gun battles he had survived as a guerilla with the (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) FMLN. He talked of the precious thing that all of us in the room shared: "Our Party, the PLP, has a line that is clear and correct. With this the working class can win."

As the hours of reports and discussion continued, I struggled to understand every word (Spanish is not my native language) and I missed a lot. But again and again, as I heard reports from comrades in vastly different situations in cities large and small in all the different countries represented by the group gathered there, I realized that our struggles were more alike than different.

Fascism may be police murder of black youth in New York or assassination of trade union activists in Bogotá, community policing in Chicago or cops paying off unprincipled workers to spy on their neighbors in Oaxaca, but it's the same enemy. There are masses of workers in all these places who hate the system and respond to our politics.

In one country after another, new people are coming forward. Growth may be slow but the quality of new comrades is humbling. The energy and sharp political analysis of young workers and university students from Colombia, Mexico and the U.S. was exciting to witness.

The school for communism was exhilarating and emotional. At one point a comrade with thinning gray hair and hands that looked like they had seen their share of hard work over the decades quietly described getting up early with his bag of CHALLENGE and heading off to another demonstration. His calm, even voice communicated an unshakable determination. I noticed tears running down the cheeks of a comrade across the room and realized her's were not the only moist eyes in the room. Our work can be daunting, but the passion that drives us is deep.

A Comrade

Need More Action vs. Criminal Jailing of Immigrants

Here in Newark, NJ February 13 marked the 17th year workers and students have demonstrated against the criminal detention of immigrants. Organizations involved included First Friends, Pax Christi, Wind of the Spirit and AFSC, as well as other immigrant rights groups. Protests continue to be needed because even after so many years, the number of workers deported has soared to over a million under Obama's executive watch.

Last year 60 people participated. This year, when over 100 showed up, most of the increase came from high school youth, from schools as far as fifteen miles away!

We gathered at Liberty State Park, across from Ellis Island where immigrants from Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean historically entered New York City. We then rallied across from the Bergen County detention center in Hackensack. Seven of us wore the orange jump suits of detainees and showed placards with the names of the seven people who have died during incarceration in New Jersey alone. Next we marched from the Newark Hall of Records to the Federal building and then through the Ironbound

district, carrying two cardboard "coffins" symbolizing the real death and destruction of undocumented workers and their families.

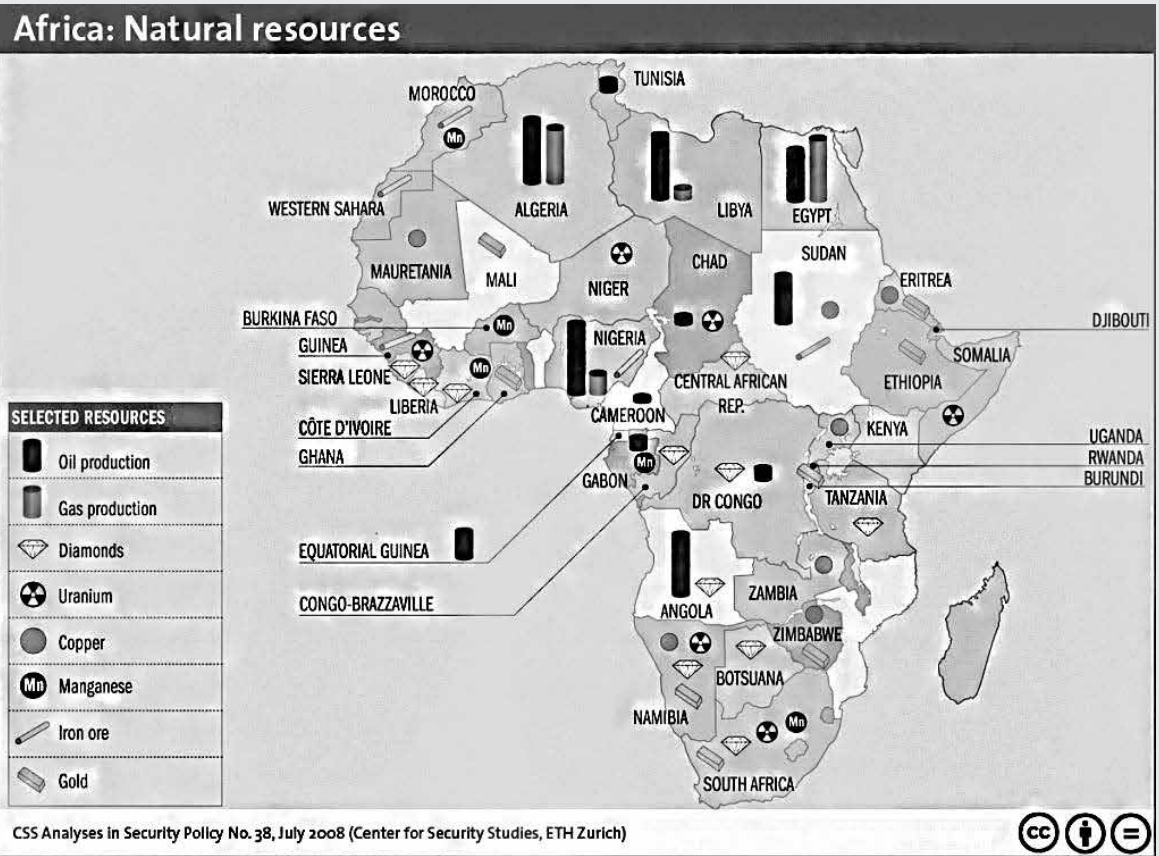
During the rallies we held at two other detention centers later the same day, many truckers from the busy receiving district of Port Newark honked in solidarity. We were accompanied at each of our six points of protest by musicians and vocalists who called themselves the "Dirty Rotten System."

At the soup dinner following a two-hour vigil in Elizabeth, we discussed fundraising for a Salvadoran woman who needed \$3,000 bail for her release after nearly two years of detention. She has not seen her three-year-old son all this time. An article in CHALLENGE concerning communist work in El Salvador was shared with each person during this dinner.

These protests are just a beginning. More than peaceful protests will be needed to end these abuses. We will need to topple the powers that support this system of capitalism, destroy the world-wide borders that separate workers and build a communist society where we all benefit from the fruits of our labor.

A N.J. Comrade

U.S. and China Battle Over Africa's and Asia's Resources



continued from page 2

Business Council. In 2012, the group made ex-Marine commandant and Obama advisor General James Jones its CEO. Jones told the Iraq Oil Report, "It's not a good sign for the global community when companies like Exxon and Chevron both kind of say, 'It's easier to do business in Kurdistan than it is with Baghdad.' That has a chilling effect, you know, globally. And I think Baghdad's gonna have to learn from that" (12/26/12).

The harsh lesson Jones and his Exxon handlers want to teach Maliki would amount to a fourth round of genocide against Iraqi workers. First came George H.W. Bush's massive 1991 invasion to retake Kuwaiti oil, protect U.S. access to Saudi resources and put both Iraq and Iran on notice. Next came Clinton's no-fly operation over Iraq's skies, which enforced sanctions on food and medicine and wiped out at least a million Iraqis, including 500,000 children. In 2003, George W. Bush unleashed his "shock and awe" fiasco, which used a limited number of troops to kill hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. But none of these imperialist assaults permanently subjugated Iraq, an essential goal for U.S. rulers. The solution? U.S. bosses now envision an Iraqi civil war to confront China by local proxy:

If Exxon Mobil starts drilling operations [in Kurdistan], Baghdad will have no option but to try and stop them," the Middle East Economic

Digest quoted a source in [Kurd capital] Erbil as saying. "But they'll have the KRG [Kurdish Regional Government] and the Peshmerga behind them." The Peshmerga, which means "those who face death," are the Kurds' battle-seasoned fighters who for decades fought a separatist war against Baghdad until Saddam Hussein was toppled.... Both sides have heavily armed forces confronting each other along Kurdistan's southern border. Oil could well be the spark to ignite a war. (UPI, 2/15/13)

The Final Conflict: International Working Class vs. World's Imperialists

The international working class has no stake in any of these ruling-class rivalries. The bosses use workers from northern Africa, Iraq and the U.S., as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan, as cannon fodder in their battle over energy resources. Masses of workers need to understand that capitalism is the source of their misery — and that it must be and can be destroyed. That is the goal of the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party. We fight for the overthrow of the profit system, the cause of mass unemployment, racism, sexism, poverty and imperialist wars. We need a mass party to get there. We need you to join us and help lead this revolution for a society run by our class, for our class interests.✪

U.S. Terror Wars Have 215-Year History

continued from page 8

Day Massacre, when police shot at a crowd of 1,500 strikers marching peacefully on the company's South Chicago plant. Ten workers were killed, shot in the back, and 90 others wounded. The workers eventually won union recognition.

In June, 1940, Congress passed the Alien Registration Act — commonly known as the Smith Act — which made it a crime to belong to an organization that advocated overthrow of the U.S. government. Over 200 members of the Communist Party were indicted under its provisions and its entire leadership was convicted and jailed for from five to eight years.

A Page from Hitler's Book: Concentration Camps

In 1941, the Roosevelt Administration seized hundreds of thousands of Japanese-Americans and put them in concentration camps for the entire four years of World War II as "suspected spies." They lost their homes, farms, and small businesses.

A decade later Congress passed the anti-communist Internal Security Act of 1950, the McCarran Act, mandating the fingerprinting and registration of all "subversives" in the U.S. and authorizing concentration camps "for emergency situations." Six were constructed across the country.

That same year Congress enacted the Subversive Activities Control and Emergency Detention Acts which required "communist organizations" to register with the U.S. Attorney General. It allowed detention of "dangerous, disloyal or subversive persons during wartime or in an "internal security emergency." Such citizens could be barred from entering or leaving the country. The bill was used to revoke Paul Robeson's (pro-communist artist) passport, preventing him

from traveling outside the U.S. to expose its racist apartheid system.

During this period, Congress also passed two anti-communist, anti-labor laws. The Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin Laws barred communists from holding union office even if elected by the rank and file. They instituted injunction clauses to prevent workers from striking upon contract expirations. They also made it more difficult to organize non-union shops and proved a bonanza for the bosses.

Throughout this era, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) operated an all-out anti-communist witch-hunt, going from city to city to subpoena leftists and communists.

When reds were asked if they were members of the Communist Party and when the latter refused to answer, citing the 5th Amendment "protection" against self-incrimination, this led to firing as well as jailing for "contempt of Congress." But here is where HUAC met its match with PL and ultimately its demise.

PL'ers Turn the Tables on the Anti-Communist Witch-hunters

After members of the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM, forerunner of the Progressive Labor Party) had broken the government ban on travel to Cuba, in 1963 they were called before HUAC in Washington, DC, and asked the big question. They not only did not hide behind the 5th Amendment but shot back that they "were proud to be communists." HUAC was dumfounded. CP members had never replied in this fashion. PL'ers turned the hearings into a political attack on HUAC, exposing the Kennedy Administration's imperialist invasion of Vietnam. Pictures depicting this counter-attack were flashed across the front pages of newspapers across the country.

After the 1964 Harlem Rebellion, a New York City Grand Jury was convened to try to prove that PLM had "incited a riot." PL'ers refused to cooperate with the rich man's Jury while mass pickets lined the streets outside the hearing rooms. Several PL members were cited for contempt for their non-cooperation and sentenced to continuous 30-day jail terms to force them to cooperate. They were held in the notorious Greenwich Women's House of Detention where they exposed the horrific conditions inside that jail while mass picket lines ringed the prison. The exposé led to the institution's closing.

In 1964, HUAC came to Buffalo, where PL had a base among steel, auto and other basic industrial workers, as well as in the colleges, the Committee tried to "expose" them in order to get them fired. But PL turned the tables on HUAC. In the hearings, members exposed them as fascists while outside PL organized mass demonstrations on the streets, including a broad spectrum of anti-racist, anti-fascist workers and professors. This had never happened at any of HUAC's previous anti-communist forays. HUAC was literally run out of town and gradually faded from sight.

From this base in Buffalo and with this counter-attack, PL showed that the bosses' anti-communism can be challenged and defeated. It was out of such experiences that the Progressive Labor Party was born and to this day is the leading force against the terrorists in the U.S. ruling class, championing the fight for communism in the international working class.☺

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

Poverty around your next corner?

Liberal Opinion Week, 2/13 — Welcome to America, where half the nation lives right on the razor's edge. A shocking new report out of the Corporation for Enterprise Development finds that 44 percent of Americans are just one financial shock away from complete ruin. Nearly half the nation doesn't have enough savings to keep them out of poverty for more than 3 months should they suffer a job loss, an accident, a sickness or other financial shock.

US does toxic work in Mexico

NYT, 2/9 — United States companies are sending... lead batteries to recycling plants in Mexico that do not meet American environmental standards according to an environmental agency created under the North American Free Trade Agreement, putting Mexican communities at risk....

Since 2008, new United States' limits on lead pollution have made domestic recycling complicated and costly. That has helped propel the recycling trade to Mexico, both legally and illegally

Soil collected by the [NY] Times in a school playground near a recycling plant outside Mexico City was found to have lead levels five times those allowed in the United States.

Lead poisoning causes high blood pressure, kidney damage and abdominal pain in adults and serious developmental delays and behavioral problems in young children....

Suicide spike reflects GI's shame

GW, 2/8 — In 2012....more of America's serving soldiers died at their own hands than in pursuit of the 'enemy'....

[William] Busby's story....was in many ways the archetype of the American soldier....He came under attack several times, and in one incident incurred a



blow to the head that caused traumatic brain injury. His body was so peppered with shrapnel that whenever he walked through an airport security screen he would set off the alarm. The mental costs were high, too. Each time he came back from Afghanistan, he seemed a little more on edge, a little more withdrawn.

Nights were the worst. He had bad dreams and.... told his mother, "You would hate me if you knew what I've done out there..."

Hundreds of service members...have been grappling with suicidal thoughts....Colleagues in military psychiatry have developed the concept of "moral injury" to help understand the current wave of self-harm. [They] define that as "damage to your deeply-held beliefs about right and wrong. It might be caused by something that you do or fail to do..."

Contrary to assumptions, it is not the fear and the terror that service members endure in the battlefield that inflict most psychological damage...but shame and guilt related to the moral injuries....as the guilt that follows the knowledge that a military action has led to the death of civilians, particularly women and children....

But experts say the crisis could last for at least a decade beyond the end of war....

Clinton leads olé for Burma junta

GW, 2/8 — [Myanmar/Burma is] a country ruled by a military-backed government that came to power in rigged elections. Its army is committing war crimes

against ethnic minorities. International aid to tens of thousands of people displaced by attacks by its army is blocked by the government, and hundreds of political prisoners are in jail.

Last week Hillary Clinton cited Burma as one of her successes during her term as secretary of state.... But the speed with which the international community moved to relax sanctions...and heap praise on every small reform came as a shock to those of...Burma who thought the international community was on [their] side.

Shh! Sales tax robs workers

NYT, 1/25 — WASHINGTON — Republican governors are moving aggressively to cut personal and corporate income taxes, including proposals that would increase reliance on state sales taxes....

In Louisiana, Gov. Bobby Jindal is pushing to repeal the state's personal and corporate income taxes and make up the lost revenue through higher sales taxes. Gov. Dave Heineman of Nebraska is calling for much the same thing in his state....

The approach would lead to cutbacks in education, health care and other vital services while shifting relatively more of the tax burden on those who can least afford it.

"These aren't pro-growth policies — they're shell games that reward the wealthiest Americans at the expense of everyone else."

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

'War on Terror' — Part II

Mass Red Movement Can Defeat Rulers' High-Tech Tyranny

Part I reviewed the ways U.S. rulers make their laws at will to suit their purposes, and use "illegal" methods to punish their opponents. Now they have new technologies to pursue their profit-making goods.

Many of the techniques being used here have come to light since the Arab Spring. Protesters released records showing that Western — usually U.S. — companies had been marketing to the dictators a wide array of technology for snooping on people without the latter knowing it. There are "surveillance industry conferences" all around the world (Prague, Dubai, Brasilia, Washington DC, Kuala Lumpur).

At the recent D.C. event, firms were selling products to enable a computer to snap a picture of who is using it and send the image to police; track hundreds of cell phones at once; read e-mails by the tens of thousands; use phony updates for iTunes to infiltrate phones/tablets/computers. When questioned, the firms' response has been: we only sell to governments, and most of our customers are law enforcement agencies in the U.S.

Journalists' probes discovered that the firms have been pushing sales to smaller and smaller police departments; what was once done only by the Feds is becoming universal. Moreover, the firms are now actively selling to private detectives. Some of the worst techniques are legal for private eyes to use. They started with contested divorce cases, but now firms are buying the technology to keep tabs on workers.

The main technique is to force internet service providers (ISP) and cell phone carriers to do the cops' dirty work. An example: Egyptian rebels had been using Skype since they thought that wiretapping Skype is next to impossible. What they did not realize was that the secret police had required the ISP to let the cops install remote "keystroke-capture" software which let the cops learn the rebels' passwords. The cops then listened in on every Skype conversation.

'Stingrays' and Mobile Phones

For the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. military developed devices that are now in use in the U.S. The FBI has gone to great lengths to hide its widespread use of "stingrays" which locate a mobile phone even when it is not being used to make a call.

The stingray is placed in a van which drives along mimicking a cell phone tower. Cell phones are constantly on the alert for the nearest cell phone tower, so when the phone detects the stingray, it connects just as it would to a tower. The stingray then measures how the strength of the signal changes as the van drives along, thereby pinpointing the phone's location much more precisely than is possible with the records from the cell phone company.

The FBI claims it gets (sealed) court orders to use stingrays, but it appears that cops in Minnesota, Arizona, Miami and Durham, NC use them. Twenty years ago, the British secretly developed very sophisticated license-plate readers to track the movement of IRA rebels. Their work at night, in the rain, for cars travelling at high speed, across four lanes of traffic. Then it quickly matches up the license plate with the car's owner. Type in a license plate, and the system pulls up where that car has been.

This system was developed for the "war on terror" but is now used routinely. The Washington Post reports that the 73 cameras in D.C. gather more than a million license-plate readings a month (in a city of 600,000 people), but they hope to greatly increase that by incorporating the hundreds of traffic-monitoring cameras into the system. As the Post put it, "there are no laws governing how or when the Washington area police can use the tag reader technology." License-plate readers are just one example of cameras being spread in public places under the guise of the "war on terror."

Communist Revolution Will Defeat Capitalist Technology

Workers should not be fooled by "legalities." Historically, ruling classes have made, changed or eliminated laws



International Working Women's Day (see page 5)

when it suits their purpose of maintaining their class dictatorship. The question of "legality" is merely the window-dressing of "democracy" that they use to hide that dictatorship. During crises, this window dressing comes down and the fascist core at the center of capitalism can clearly be seen.

However, the news is not all bad. Each time the ruling class changes the rules or uses new technology to put down dissent, the working class fights back. Clever workers are developing ways to defeat each of the rulers' new technologies, or even to turn it against the cops. We can be confident that the working class's creativity is at work! However, the main way to defeat the cops' snooping is to create such a large communist movement that the cops can't follow us all. There is safety in numbers — yet another reason to redouble our efforts.

Masses of workers in action, especially communist-led, have overcome the enemy in the past and will do so again.✊

U.S. Terror Wars Have 215-Year History

The U.S. capitalist state has a long history of a "war on terror" against the working class and any dissenters, going as far back as 1798 in President George Washington's second term. That year four bills known as the Alien and Sedition Acts were passed to quell anyone favoring the French Revolution. Any "alien" who was a "danger to peace and safety or subject to a foreign power" are subjected to imprisonment. Newspapers were shut down and their editors arrested for publishing "any false, scandalous or malicious writing."

Two hundred and fifty years of black slavery were enforced by the government, North and South. The Fugitive Slave Act sent slaves who escaped to the North from Southern plantations back to slavery. Post-Civil War conditions were hardly better for ex-slaves who were terrorized by racist Ku Klux Klan vigilantes, segregated and denied basic rights by Southern state governments for another 100 years.

From the 18th century on, the U.S. military enacted genocidal murder on millions of indigenous people of the U.S., driving them off their lands and restricting them to concentration camp-like reservations, which continue today.

In 1886, Chicago cops killed protesters demonstrating for the 8-hour work day — following a general strike — and later hung four of its leaders. It was out of this strike that May Day was born, which PLP has been celebrating for the past 42 years.

From 1918 to 1921, Attorney-General Mitchell Palmer launched an anti-communist crusade, carried out by incoming FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover. Amid a wave of post-World War I strikes, communists were blamed for all social ills. Without warrants, Palmer thugs raided and smashed union offices and the headquarters of communist and socialist organizations. As many as 10,000 were arrested. In December, 1919, 249 resident aliens were seized and put on a ship deporting them to the Soviet Union (then two years old). The crusade's hysteria was exemplified by the imprisonment of a Connecticut clothing salesman for saying he thought "Lenin was smart."

Red-led Auto, Steel Workers Beat Back Bosses' Attacks

Fifteen years later, vigilantes organized by General Motors attempted to smash the then growing communist-led auto sit-down strikes. The National Guard was ordered out to surround the plants in an attempt to starve out the workers. But 40,000 workers from four states descended on Flint, Michigan, surrounding GM's struck plants and forced the company to recognize the United Auto Workers Union and agree to a 40-hour week.

May 30, 1937, saw the Republic Steel Memorial

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