

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

volume 47 no.4

February 25, 2015

suggested donation \$0.50

## Europe, Middle East CONFLICTS THREATEN U.S. IMPERIALISM

U.S. imperialists recently suffered three major setbacks which intensify global rivalry and thus threaten wider war. In Ukraine, significant territorial gains by pro-Russian forces have U.S. rulers scrambling to arm their Kiev puppet regime. In Yemen a Shiite group friendly with Iran has seized power. Yemen borders Saudi Arabia, the oil-rich cornerstone of the U.S. worldwide empire. In addition, ISIS has swept through parts of Syria and has captured one-third of Iraq where it routed the Iraqi army. Lastly, the U.S. and European Union imperialist rivals are squaring off against Russia. Amid these ramped-up war threats, the international working class has no stake in taking any bosses' side. The workers in Russia, U.S. and the EU pay the price through lower living standards, displacement, and death.

### Ukraine

"A bipartisan group of lawmakers from the Senate Armed Services Committee has called upon the White House to provide lethal weapons to Ukrainian forces to fight off Russian separatist advances into their territory," (Military.com, 2/5/15). The Capitol Hill gang pushing for stepped-up fighting included Senator John McCain, leader of the Republican's imperialist wing, and liberal Senator Democrat Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, a state which produces helicopters, submarines, guns and other lethal weapons for the U.S. war machine.

The motivation of these pro-wider war lawmakers comes directly from U.S. capitalists, not from workers whom the politicians falsely claim they represent. It was the U.S. bosses who used NATO to weaken Russian imperialist influence in Eastern Europe, which emboldened Russia to reclaim the vital Crimea and eastern Ukrainian provinces in the first place. Days before McCain & Co. appealed to Obama, the Brookings Institution, Atlantic Council and Chicago Council on Global Affairs think tanks had issued a joint report titled "Preserving Ukraine's Independence, Resisting Russian Aggression: What the United States and NATO Must Do." These policy factories get the bulk of their funding from the heaviest hitters in U.S. finance capital and imperialist industry, such as JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, ExxonMobil, Chevron, and Rockefeller family foundations. The senators' plea essentially parroted this report, which said in summary:

*Russian success would fatally undermine Ukraine's stability and embolden the Kremlin to further challenge the security order in Europe. It might tempt President Putin to use his doctrine of protecting ethnic Russians and Russian speakers in seeking territorial changes elsewhere in*



*the neighborhood, including in the Baltic States, provoking a direct challenge to NATO. Maintaining Western sanctions are critical but not by themselves sufficient. The West needs to bolster deterrence in Ukraine by raising the risks and costs to Russia of any renewed major offensive. That requires providing direct military assistance — in far larger amounts than provided to date and including lethal defensive arms — so that Ukraine is better able to defend itself. The U.S. government should provide Ukraine \$1 billion in military assistance as soon as possible in 2015, followed by additional...[amounts] of \$1 billion in FY [Fiscal Year] 2016 and FY 2017.*

Britain's Guardian newspaper, however, said (2/7/15) Europe's bosses think an arms deal would amount to declaring war:

*Carl Bildt, the former Swedish foreign minister, said a war between Russia and the West was now quite conceivable. A senior diplomat in Brussels, echoing the broad EU [European Union] view, said arming the Ukrainians would mean war with Russia, a war that Putin would win.*

Supposedly staunch NATO allies Germany and France stand militarily unready (and in Germany's case, dependent for energy on Russia). So, while Washington weighs sending missiles and tanks, German chancellor Angela Merkel and French president François Hollande went on an emergency trip to Kiev, Ukraine, and Mos-

cow to buy time. Hollande said the "Ukraine crisis now risked becoming total war" (Guardian).

Meanwhile, war has killed over 5,000 in the Ukraine, and 43 percent of Ukraine's workers are food-deprived (ten million people). It has also seen youth unemployment hit the 53 percent mark. However, Western and Russian rulers need more than arms; they need youth to join the military to use those weapons and they will incite racism on both sides to try to win their allegiances.

In reality, the youth have three choices in Ukraine and among all war-bent capitalist countries during such crises: join the military, join one imperialist faction over another, or join a communist movement.

### Yemen

Early this month, Houthi fighters, an insurgent group, took power in Yemen. Business Insider (2/7/15) says:

*The biggest loser from the Yemeni government's fall is ...Saudi Arabia. The monarchy feared that a collapsed Yemen would exacerbate the threats posed by both Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula...as well as the Houthis, Shi'ite militants allied with Iran, which is still Riyadh's top geopolitical rival.*

Saudi Arabia, the largest and most profitable source

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# OUR FIGHT

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

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

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

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

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, 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.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue \$0.50. One Year: \$15. Six months: \$10. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, February 25, 2015. Volume 47, No. 4

# Editorial

# Conflicts Threaten U.S. Imperialism

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of oil on the planet, lies further encircled by Iranian influence. Tehran-leaning Shiites (including strengthening Badr militias, increasingly successful against ISIS), dominate bordering Iraq, despite the presence of U.S. troops there. President Franklin Roosevelt's pledge to defend the kingdom in return for U.S. access to its oil has secured the lifeblood of U.S. imperialism since World War II. Under U.S. military protection, ExxonMobil, the world's biggest seller of refined petroleum, counts Saudi Arabia as its biggest source, and the Saudis count Exxon as their biggest customer.

Today, keeping Roosevelt's Saudi promise remains indispensable for U.S. rulers, even as it proves more difficult. In late January, Obama — who hadn't bothered to attend or send a representative of any importance to the massive rally following the Paris massacre — personally led a gold-ribbon delegation to Saudi Arabia to reassure the new king. It featured former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and other top ruling-class figures linked tightly to Big Oil. They were major architects of both Iraq wars as well as Clinton's bombing of Kosovo. (Chevron named an oil tanker after Rice when she sat on its board.) The delegation included the commander of U.S. Mideast operations, along with the CIA chief and warmonger McCain.

Obama understands his capitalist masters' needs in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. That's why the Rockefeller-led Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) praises his latest National Security Strategy (NSS) document, which “reaffirms the importance of NATO as the hub of a global security network and pledges to deepen its cooperation with the EU in countering Russian aggression in Ukraine” (CFR website, 2/7/15). The CFR also lauds his Saudi-inspired NSS identification of “major energy market disruptions” among “top security risks” requiring drastic U.S. action. U.S. rulers' coming requirements also explain Obama's new budget request. It seeks an additional \$60 billion for the military, mainly to buy “the sorts of weapons systems needed for a big war against a major power: aircraft carriers, stealth fighter jets, and submarines” (Slate, 2/2/15).

While these billions are slated for war, the “recovery” the Obama administration is touting is fraudulent. The unemployment they claim is declining, when combined with the “hidden unemployment” — long-term jobless who are not counted, the underemployed (part-timers who can't find full-time jobs and workers on welfare and first-time job seekers, also uncounted — all adds up to over 30 million.

That's why PLP says we need communism, where everyone has a job, producing for the good of the entire working class, and unemployment is history. Our class needs a mass Party. Join and build PLP!☛

## Bosses Prepare for War

While these war regions may be far from U.S. shores, U.S. oil bosses' interests to stay top dog leads them to drag workers and youth into a killing quagmire. The U.S. is preparing workers for war with budget cuts and military recruitment.

Obama and the capitalists he serves need troops on the ground to battle their opponents. This means luring millions of youth into the military to fight in the bosses' wars for profit, while killing their sisters and brothers worldwide. They hope that some version of the Dream Act will induce immigrant youth to enlist in the armed forces. They also hope that capitalism's massive racist unemployment will force masses of Black, Latin and Asian youth to join the bosses' military — the “economic draft.”

Who pays for the multi-billion dollar war budget? All workers do! Our class already suffer from stagnant and declining wages, a 23 percent jobless rate (see Shadowstats.com), reductions in social services and healthcare and mammoth cuts in education budgets, all of which hit Black, Latin, and immigrant workers the hardest. The rulers then use their racist cops to terrorize Black and Latin youth — from Ferguson, Missouri, to New York City and L.A. — to prevent them from rebelling. Capitalism's sexist exploitation forces women workers to accept one-third less in earnings than men workers, putting even more profits in the bosses' bank accounts.

All this sets the stage for cutting white workers' wages — Obama's deal with General Motors and Chrysler chopped newly-hired auto workers' wages in half. Thus, racism and sexism affects ALL workers, Black, Latin, Asian and white.

The capitalist class needs all these cuts to pay for their war preparations. So the wars in far-off regions directly land on U.S. workers' backs.

The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party is organizing the working class in the U.S. and worldwide not only to fight back against these war-driven attacks, but to overthrow the capitalist system altogether. A communist revolution to eliminate bosses, profits, and war will create a society run by and for the working class.



# Students and Faculty Stand Up vs. Racist Administrations

**BOSTON, January 27** — On a bitter cold day with a major snowstorm brewing, a group of students at Roxbury Community College — boldly standing up to the administration's naked attack on their education — rallied outside the Academic Building, reaching hundreds of fellow students and others with their fliers, petition and passionate voices. A few days into the new semester, they were protesting larger class sizes and cuts to dozens of sections and many low-enrolled courses. Roxbury is a mainly Black and Latin community college and these cuts are a racist attack on students.

## Student-Worker Unity

One hundred and forty students eagerly signed the protest petition and some held up signs. Several faculty members came outside to lend their support. A few days later, the students received unanimous backing for their petition at a faculty meeting and they are now planning to deliver the petition to the administration.

The cuts would slash costs and prove to wealthy foundations and legislators that the administration is running an "efficient" operation (code word for budget cuts), one of the performance measurements that will determine the amount of the college's state funding. The cuts were made without faculty or student input or regard for how they would affect students' learning or academic plans.

Just like in K-12, wealthy foundations (i.e., Gates,

Lumina, Boston), are setting the agenda for Education Reform in the community colleges to focus their mission on training for mostly low-level jobs to serve the local business economy. The ruling class wants higher education, especially the public colleges which are directly under its control, to produce the wage slaves (and soldiers) that capitalism requires.

The Roberson administration was hired to implement the local ruling-class agenda. For the most part, they've been getting away with layoffs and cutbacks because students, faculty and staff are not organized to defend their own interests. Most students are in the dark about what's happening, and like the rest of society, have been conditioned by individualism to think narrowly. Faculty and staff are more aware and are deeply troubled about the corporate direction towards which the college is being led. However, they're demoralized and afraid to confront the administration.

Furthermore, the long-standing division within the workforce is weakening the fightback. While cuts in sections and increases in class size hurt students the most, adjunct faculty also bear the brunt of the attacks. The general historic disregard for adjuncts causes a lack of urgency among full-timers. This, combined with the union's refusal to fight this two-tier system of employment is the ultimate betrayal.

Some faculty mistakenly think they will have a better chance of keeping their jobs if they stay on the

"good side" of the administration. They've been conditioned by 40 years of sellout unionism to rely on liberal politicians and other "friends in high places" to protect their interests. Students, faculty and campus workers may very well learn the hard way that we need to fight back, both in the short run and the long run.

Progressive Labor Party's uncompromising outlook of defending working-class interests was instrumental in inspiring students in the Pizza and Politics group to take action. Their rally shows that students do respond to bold, honest leadership. In fact, action is the only way to wake up the "sleeping giant." The Student Government Association's absence shows that they're a bought organization. Their real purpose is to control the student body by refusing to organize students to address the real issues at hand.

No matter how the administration responds to student demands, the real victory will be for these students and many more to commit themselves to serving the working class and learning more about PLP. Even if the administration was forced to back down today, they will always look for an opportunity to advance the agenda they've been hired to carry out for tomorrow. We must keep fighting back to maintain our momentum at the same time as we build the revolutionary communist movement that can lead the working class to a lasting victory.✱

## Transit Workers Stop — Antiracist Movement Grows

**CHICAGO, IL January 13** — "We have changed the climate of oppression!" These were the words uttered by a member of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 308, a Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) train worker, as more than 300 workers showed up to stop the sellout leadership from stealing another election.

It was our biggest union meeting in over 30 years, as we made phone calls, struggled with our co-workers, used social media and organized car pools to pack the union hall. It was the work of a very loose coalition of CTA workers that includes both train and bus workers that began meeting in 2011, fighting for one local union and one contract.

It could also be a sign that months of mass marches and rallies over the racist murders of Mike Brown and Eric Garner have had an effect on the mood of the workers.

Sellout President Robert Kelly was trying to call a new election after having been soundly defeated. In 2012, he conspired with CTA bosses and Chicago bankers to negotiate the worst contract we have ever had. It created 700 new low-paid Customer Service Assistant (CSA) positions, who do the same work as the Customer Service Representatives (CSR). CSAs make \$12.40/hr with no guarantee of a 40-hour/week while the 300 CSR's make \$30.00/hr. It also included Accelerated Discipline, which has been responsible for 300 workers being fired.

During the campaign, there was a lot of discussion and debate about whether the mostly Black and Latin workers and riders were facing racist attacks. Inspired by the mass anti-racist demonstrations, some of us wanted to make this an anti-racist

campaign, linked to the issue of police terror, the rise of fascism and the threat of war. Others felt that being "too political" would hurt our chances of "winning," even though they agreed that these are racist attacks! This raises the question: "What is winning?"

We did make progress. More workers were introduced to CHALLENGE, and a small network helped to distribute anti-racist material. That is winning. We were able to address racist police terror, as one worker was fired from the CTA based on the racist lies of the Chicago Police Department (CPD), and another's father was killed by CPD (see past issues of CHALLENGE). That kind of struggle, too, is winning.

Ken Franklin was elected President, and while a good guy, he wanted to keep politics out of the campaign in order to "win." He will be receiving "Congratulations" from his International President, the Mayor, and the head of the CTA, all the people he will have to oppose if he is to make a difference. His Executive Board and International are already telling him that you have to know how to "play ball."

For us, we have to consolidate our base of CHALLENGE readers and anti-racist fighters to eventually be able to lead strikes against mass racist firings due to Accelerated Discipline. The next time CPD murders a Black youth, to shut down the transit system and lead tens of thousands of workers and youth to police headquarters or City Hall. And most of all, we want to develop a mass base for communist revolution. Winning CTA workers to build and participate on May Day will be a test of our success.✱

## Legal Service Workers' Strike Targets Racism



**NEW YORK CITY, February 5** — "Millionaire Wall Street lawyers on MFY's [Mobilization for Youth] board...believe that only wealthy people deserve highly trained, experienced legal professionals and attorneys. We reject that vision. We are fighting for our clients!" That was the message from one paralegal as more than 200 workers and professionals braved frigid temperatures to picket MFY Legal Services. The 56 striking attorneys, paralegals, and secretaries from this office are represented by the Legal Services Staff Association (LSSA)/UAW Local 2320.

Funding for legal services for the poor, which includes housing and family court, bankruptcy, benefits for the elderly and many other issues, has been cut steadily since the 1990s. Federal support has decreased over 60 percent since the 1980s. Most contact with clients is now by phone as demand for assistance has surged while resources have declined.

MFY is attacking the pay and benefits of the workers, but the cuts are really aimed at the poor and low-wage mostly Black, Latin and immigrant clients we serve. MFY's staff and caseload have more than doubled in recent years, but its administrative support staff, all Black and brown women, has only grown from three to four people. We are demanding family leave, reduced workloads and pay-equity for the lowest-paid workers. We are also fighting to keep experienced staff while recruiting new Black, Latin and immigrant staff that more reflects those we serve.

Ultimately, we have to replace the racist profit system with communist revolution. Workers won't need legal help to survive. There would be no such thing as a poor worker. A good life for all workers will be the goal of society. From fighting for our clients to affirmative action in hiring to pay-equity for the lowest paid workers, this is a strike against racism with the potential to be a school for communism.✱

# Fight vs. Racism Gives Campus New Life

**INDIANA, February 9** — The Fall semester of 2014 saw a growth and renewed focus on political work on campus. This is a look into the rebuilding process of Progressive Labor Party's presence here. Through involvement in battling racism on campus and in our neighborhoods — mainly regarding the murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and murder of 43 students in Ayotzinapa, Mexico — the war against global capitalism has gained more forces.

## Struggle = School for Communism

Through the semesters over the last couple of years, PLP's work on campus has been sporadic and inconsistent. The last major struggle on our campus was our fight to remove a racist, Zionist professor from campus a few years ago. That struggle was a great learning experience. We were able to create a strong multiracial collective of Black, white, Latin, and Palestinian students, that would go on to develop a campaign against the bombing in Gaza taking place at the time.

Another important struggle protested the racist murder of a young man named Stephan Watts in a Chicago suburb. PLP was instrumental in that struggle. We attended rallies, disrupted, and on a few occasions shut down, city council meetings. The battles were great schools for communism and class struggle.

People grew closer to PLP. Many of them graduated, transferred or left to work, and we were unable to keep consistent contact with them. In that time, PLers on campus learned valuable lessons in class struggle and base-building. We had spent so much time developing the quantity of people that we neglected the fact that

in order to get a good quantity of people, we had to first look at the *quality* of people we were meeting. We had focused on "low hanging fruit" which distracted us from students who may have not fully understood all the theory but were ready to fight against racism and its root cause, capitalism.

## PLP Leadership Builds Multiracial Unity

The Fall semester of 2014 proved to be a very rewarding one, in terms of building a sound collective of students and bringing many of these students closer to PLP. In the beginning of the semester, it appeared that we might have been too optimistic because we got involved in three student organizations: Black Student Union, the Latin student group, and a multiracial collective called Students for Social Change.

It is important to note that the protests around Ferguson and Ayotzinapa played a significant role in galvanizing the students on our campus. This resulted in forums, trips to Ferguson, marches, petitions, and three protests, on campus and a local city hall.

The Party and our friends helped provide leadership, inspired by 50 militant workers and students. We took the streets, which caught the cops off guard and showed, even momentarily, the true power of the working class. We gained many contacts after that rally, some of which have come regularly to PLP study groups. This is an important development for the working class because these things usually don't happen in "big, bad, and conservative" Indiana. It shows that the working class is looking for an alternative, and that al-

ternative is communism.

The most important development of this political work was a coalition developed and maintained between all three organizations, which created a strong multiracial force on campus — something that had never been done before. Black students were passing out flyers about the struggles in Mexico surrounding the 43 missing students. Latin and white students were holding "Fight Back like Ferguson" signs at protests on campus. These struggles resulted in many students from all three organizations becoming closer to PLP and being exposed to revolutionary politics.

## Communism Is The Only Answer

Last semester we recruited a new member, and many more became closer to the Party and attended our study groups. Four travelled to New York for a college conference, and others have accompanied the Party on trips to Ferguson. We also saw veteran comrades, who had taken some steps back become very involved in providing leadership to the campus base.

This struggle to completely destroy capitalism is a long, frustrating, and brutal one. But it is a fight that we must fully immerse ourselves in, if we wish to build a communist society. The working class is yearning for an alternative to this system that murders us, closes our schools and hospitals, and sends us off to fight in imperialist wars. Communism is that alternative, and the Progressive Labor Party is the organization to make that happen. Join Us.☺

## Racist Foreclosures Turn Workers into Economic Refugees

**DETROIT, MI, February 7** — Thousands of workers here, employed and unemployed, retirees, the indigent and the disabled, were forced to appear at Wayne County show-cause hearings to try to keep their homes out of foreclosure. They were almost all Black. There were so many foreclosure notices that the hearings had to be held in Cobo Center, where just two weeks earlier the racist auto bosses spent millions unveiling their new cars at the annual Auto Show.

More than 62,000 Detroit properties are threatened with foreclosure because the owners are three years behind on property taxes. An estimated 20,000 families own and live in their homes while another 29,000 families rent homes they do not own. The other 13,000 properties are empty lots. The total population of Detroit is just under 700,000.

"My heart got to beating so fast — it's just very scary," said Rebecca Miles, who said her home was put in her name after her mother's death but had fallen about \$3,000 behind on taxes. All around their East Side neighborhood, the [foreclosure notices] had gone up, said her husband, Michael Miles. "They did the whole block," he said. "They're kicking people out..." NY Times, (1/30)

When the U.S. auto industry ruled the world, and the United Automobile Workers (UAW) had over a million members and led national strikes to win important reforms for their members, Detroit claimed the highest percentage of private home ownership in the U.S. But those reforms were built on betting on the bosses' success. Like all reforms under capitalism, they are fleeing at best, and the bosses start working on taking

them back the day you win them. The only long-term guarantee for workers everywhere is to smash the racist profit system with communist revolution, and to replace the bosses and bankers with a communist society run by the working class.

Detroit has been in decline for decades due to the decline of the U.S. auto industry and the UAW accepting decades of concessions to try to save the bosses. With the economic crisis of 2008, Obama, Wall St., the auto bosses and the UAW "restructured" the industry, costing thousands of jobs, dozens of factory closings and starting wages being cut in half. These factors contribute to 70,000 foreclosures between 2009 — 2014.

During this time, the City declared bankruptcy, targeting workers' pensions in order to bail out the billionaire bankers. Now, with the auto bosses making billions in profits, and the City out of bankruptcy, we still see a record number of foreclosures.

Just last summer, thousands of residents were having their water shut off for being three months behind in their bill. A mass fightback helped to temporarily stop shut-offs, though they later resumed. Detroit stands as a ruin of the short-lived American Century that was to follow World War Two. Black workers have been beaten down by the bosses, who can no longer offer the basics of schools, hospitals and fire houses. They have been betrayed by the union leaders, clergy and Democratic Party, and now they have become economic refugees, forced out by the tens of thousands. If you're not sure about the need for communist revolution, look at Detroit.☺

## Oil Workers Strike: Everyone Out, Stop ALL Scabs

On February 1, 3,800 oil refinery workers launched a health and safety strike against the deadly combination of outsourcing, short staffing, and forced overtime. The strikers are members of the United Steel Workers Union (USW), which represents 30,000 oil industry workers, at 63 refineries, oil terminals, pipelines, and petrochemical facilities. They produce 65 percent of U.S. oil.

The walkouts took place at nine strategic refineries in Texas, Kentucky, Washington, and California that produce 1.82 million barrels of fuel a day. The rest of the workers are working on 24-hour contract extensions that could end at any time, and which could shut down the rest of the organized sites. This would be the first industry-wide strike since 1980, when all the workers walked out together, and stayed out for three months.

The union called the strike after rejecting proposals from Royal Dutch Shell, the lead negotiator for the industry. The other companies involved in the strike are Tesoro Corporation, Exxon Mobil, Marathon Petroleum, and LyondellBasell Industries. The U.S. oil industry made almost \$90 billion in profit in 2014.

Big Oil is notorious for spills and explosions that threaten oil workers, the surrounding community and the environment. An explosion at a BP refinery outside Houston in 2005 killed 15 workers and injured nearly 200. Regulators found BP responsible for

willfully violating safety protocols, and enacted millions in fines. Four years later, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) found 700 more violations, and enacted \$87 million in fines for not correcting the violations that caused the explosion.

Another safety issue is that maintenance work, originally done by union members, is now being contracted out. Full-time union workers get health and safety training from both the company and the union. Lower-paid, contract workers do not.

And when workers either leave or retire, they are not replaced, forcing others to pick up the slack with overtime. "If they staffed this refinery, it would create 150-200 full-time jobs in our community," said one striker.

So far, the strike has not seriously affected production as managers are operating the facilities. Letting anyone cross a strike picket line is a sure loss. The best way to guarantee that the sites are closed is for the workers and their supporters to occupy them. This would up the ante and expose the media, cops, courts and politicians as hired hands of the oil industry.

It could rally the support of workers and youth as we recently saw around the issue of racist police terror. It could begin to lead thousands of workers and youth off the treadmill of legal reform and onto the road to communist revolution. We aren't holding our breath for the USW leadership to choose that path.☺

# Haiti: Workers, Students Battle for Survival

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAÏTI, February 8** —

Since early February, the streets have been filled with barricades, burning tires and burnt-out vehicles in efforts to demand lower gasoline prices. These actions follow a series of struggles over the last couple of years against the high cost of living.

In Haiti, the price of gas has not gone down, even with a reduction in price on the international market. It has become clearer to many that the rulers here will go to great lengths to protect their racist criminal profiteering and that the government is putting even more money stolen from the working class into their own pockets.

## Despite Sellout, Students Continue to Mobilize

On February 2, a confederation of transport unions and the political opposition to current president and U.S.-favorite, Michel "Haiti-is-open-for-business" Martelly, called for a two-and-a-half day strike. They



demanded USD\$2.20 reduction in gas prices. The first day paralyzed almost all of the economic, political and social activities of the country. However, sellout leaders called it off after day one, having negotiated a US10¢ reduction in gas prices. The sellouts also got government jobs and other crumbs for themselves. The average cost of gas at the pump in Haiti now is about US\$4.20. In comparison, the average cost of a gallon of gasoline in the U.S. in August was \$3.60, and is now \$2.20.

In the face of the sellout, some progressive forces inside the State University (UEH) called for a mass mobilization to continue the struggle. They reasoned that lowering the price of gasoline in Haiti would result in also lowering the viciously high cost of living for the working class, which gets steadily worse as capitalism continues to do its dirty work.

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# East Africa: Students, Workers Fight vs. Racism and Sexism

**EAST AFRICA** — Due to capitalism, the majority of students here regularly miss lunch or dinner, receive poor quality of food and healthcare, substandard accommodations, and limited access to electricity and water. Likewise, the capitalist curriculum fails the new generations' aspirations and potential. This is naked capitalism. However, from April through October 2014, students at a Teachers' College have been fighting back against racist theft and utter disregard of students. We have also been fighting back against the sexist denial of education to girls in a rural town.

In June, 2014, these student-teachers left for their three-week practicum without the daily allowance that pays for accommodations and meals that is their due. The 876 student-teachers managed to survive for 21 days, living in hardship, especially during the evening hours after they returned from school. When they returned to the Teachers' College, the cruel principal told them to prepare for the college closure without giving them their allowances retroactively or providing any explanation for the administration's theft. This kind of criminality by the bosses in schools, colleges, and universities has been a common and legal practice.

## Student Strike

A PLP contingent acted as a catalyst for action, first by sharing their views with fellow students, and student governments. These meetings resulted in a united strike where students rallied with posters that read, "We want our Money" and "Shukana: A Figurehead" (attacking the specific role of certain administrators). They also staged a hunger strike. They not only won their demand but they spread the struggle to other colleges that also have a history of criminal administrators. Students refused to accept these racist attacks on education, where the bosses expect to get away with theft from Black students.

As students were preparing to go back to school after holiday, they were met with another attack. In the final days before college opened on July 11, a minister announced an increase of college fees of 400,000 shillings (\$218) — a 200 percent increase! (The average family of seven lives on \$1 per day.) This is like giving a two-year-old baby a 20-kilogram bag of maize to

carry. This is an impossible task, as majority of the students come from the working class. It is true that education is supposed to benefit workers' lives and the whole community. Under capitalism, schools are a way for the bosses to make profit off workers, and teach pro-capitalist ideas to those students who can afford school. Students responded by demanding a meeting with the administration, and they conducted strikes on several campuses. The administration ended up accepting student demands to remove the increase in fees!

Next, on October 14, the students discovered that the Secretary, Vice President, and Dean of Students had stolen and spent the \$670,000 Condolence Fund that is created from a 500-shilling-per-month donation from each student. The purpose of the fund is to help students who need to go home during the semester for funerals or other family crises. The theft was discovered when three students requested support to attend funerals of their relatives. The administration has no shame! Students demanded that the money be returned. This led to a serious fight between the students against the government and the college administration.

The PLP comrades from the Teacher's College will continue to build unity between workers and students among colleges here and worldwide to fight against capitalism's criminal education system. In the coming months, we need to find ways to deepen the political consciousness of the masses of students, so we can sustain and intensify the struggle.

The capitalist government oppresses the working class daily by taxing its people heavily while refusing to provide the services promised. Now the living conditions for the workers are as bad as they were during colonialism. We call for unity of every tribe, sex, age group, schooled and unschooled, rural and urban workers alike to bring down the bosses and pave the way for working-class rule. Our voice is the voice of the exploited and oppressed class of the world that will one day destroy capitalism. Our organizing today is digging graves for the bosses' burial tomorrow.✊

## Organize Against Sexism

PLP members in a rural secondary school here in East Africa are struggling with parents against the practice of taking their girls out of school to marry them off for the bride price, which is paid to the bride's parents by the groom's family. This major problem has its roots in poverty, sexism, and class society. Many of the young girls who are supposed to be in school are forced by their parents to stop studying and get married. In 2013, this contributed to 40 percent of the students here leaving school because of their parents' decision. These traditional values keep the working class thwarted by illiteracy.

PLP teachers and friends organized meetings with parents about the importance of education for girls. With a bride price, the girls were a commodity to be bought and sold. Under capitalism, everyone's value is turned into commodity. We must fight capitalism because it is the source of all exploitation in the society. Although some parents are still reluctant, most of the parents and the masses in the district became aware of how education is crucial. After five months, the number of students dropping out of school in this district was reduced.

Child brides are an outcome of a system based on capital. When workers' livelihood is based on money, families are forced to sell their daughters, as property, as an income to allow the family to live another day. The working class needs more than a world that values girls and boys as equal. We need to abolish the source of inequality: the wage system. In that sense, the emancipation of women is intrinsically tied to the emancipation of the working class.

When these girls are sent to school instead of sold as domestic slaves, what is the purpose of their education? With communist teachers, students can also receive a political education. They can begin to understand why they are poor when they live in a country rich in resources, and why there are poor and rich countries in the world. These girls can grow to become fierce women fighters against capitalism. Teachers, students, and parents can work towards a vision of a communist society where human life is priceless, where women and men are equal.

# LETTERS

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

## Fighting Fears and Slumlords

At first, when the idea of leading a discussion/workshop was introduced to my partner and myself, we were very hesitant about saying yes. I personally have problems with public speaking in every way, shape, or form. I usually start sweating and have sudden onsets of stomach aches. At times I even shut down and stop speaking — that’s how bad it would get. But something different happened the day of the workshop.

When we were leading it felt nervous at first. Then it really hit me that I’m in a room full of people who are supportive and generous; they won’t judge me whether I do a good or bad job leading. This made it easier. Everyone was so welcoming and the whole day I didn’t feel one inch of nervousness.

Leading the discussion went smooth! We all shared our opinions and feelings on portions of PLP’s Smash Racism pamphlet that stood out. When the workshop was over, we went over to the slumlord’s office and held a rally. Overall, I thought the rally was very touching and that it is extremely relevant to everything we talk about, from capitalism down to fascism.

I feel like we got mixed responses from the people who were walking around. I paid close attention to a lot of people’s facial expressions. Some were very supportive, while others looked confused. Some may have felt like we were intruding into their neighborhood; who knows. We felt that the day was very successful and if we continue to spread a message that change needs to happen, more people will join us. As more people become aware the better because their eyes will start to open towards the bigger picture.

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## Racist Unemployment Built into Capitalism

*[C]apitalistic accumulation itself ... constantly produces, and produces in the direct ratio of its own energy and extent, a relatively redundant population of workers ... It is the absolute interest of every capitalist to press a given quantity of labor out of a smaller, rather than a greater number of labourers, if the cost is about the same ... The more extended the scale of production, the*

*stronger this motive (Capital, Karl Marx, Ch. 25, Section 3)*

The comradely criticism voiced in a letter in CHALLENGE (1/28) raises an important question: Is unemployment an unintended consequence of the “independent” workings and decisions of many individual companies, each one trying to maximize its profits at the expense of the others? Is this phenomenon the result of “planned action on the [capitalist] class level”? Or is it the inevitable result of the inner workings of the capitalist system itself?

Karl Marx’s investigation of capitalism disclosed that capital is composed of two items — constant capital which is the “means of production” (factories, mines, tools, machinery) and variable capital which is the wages paid to “living labor power” (what each worker sells to a boss in order to live). The accumulation of capital requires more investment in labor power. Simply, bosses must keep paying wages in order to continue to profit from workers’ labor. However, Marx concluded that the long-term tendency in capitalism is for a larger share of profits to be reinvested in upgraded “means of production” and a smaller share reinvested in the wages paid to workers.

There are a number of reasons for this. As stated in the January 28 letter, the byword of capitalism is competition. Each individual boss accumulates capital (i.e., profits from workers’ labor). But each boss is also trying to snatch a greater share of the market for the items sold by his/her individual company. To gain an edge, one boss will introduce machinery or technology that the competition does not have. But soon after one boss makes that change, all the other bosses are forced to do the same in order to stay in business. Over time, a greater percentage of profits tends to get invested in more advanced equipment, requiring fewer workers.

On the other side of the equation, the bosses are constantly forcing workers to produce more for less money. This is done through layoffs of some workers, and speed-up, overtime and even wage-cuts for those remaining. This is a constant trend of capitalism at all times (the number of those applying for unemployment benefits in the U.S. in a typical week is rarely below 300,000). This process accelerates dramatically in periods of crisis.

(The latest Great Recession produced a true unemployment rate of 23 percent in the U.S., when including workers not counted by government statistics as unemployed: those who’ve given up looking for non-existent jobs; those working part-time because they can’t find full-time jobs; and those who’ve been unemployed for more than a year, among other uncounted factors, totaling nearly 30 million unemployed. See Shadowstats.com)

So, in the long run, a lesser percentage of profits is invested in wages, even if the average wage stays more or less the same.

As Marx pointed out, these trends result in the crea-

# revolution

tion of an unemployed “reserve army of labor.” Further, the specter of unemployment “forces [those working] to submit to overwork and to subjugation under the dictates of capital.”

In the U.S. and elsewhere, because of racism, the unemployed are disproportionately Black and Latin. No matter whether the economy is in recession or recovery, the percentage of jobless Black workers tends to be double that of white workers. Latin workers’ unemployment is also higher than that of white workers.

During periods of “recovery” from crises, some, but not all, of the unemployed are rehired, frequently at lower wages and/or with worse working conditions. For example, in the U.S. auto industry some rehired workers now are paid \$12-14 an hour in “non-core” jobs, one-half of previous rates (this is an industry where Black employment was decimated starting in the late 1970s). With each new crisis, the number of unemployed workers, hungry for any job at any wage, swells (see media stories since the 2008 crash where thousands of workers lined up to apply for very few jobs).

So, is racist unemployment a conscious “policy” of the capitalist class? Perhaps not in the same way that imperialist military action is. But the need for unemployment is built into the capitalist system itself. Capitalists, and the think tanks that serve their class, are conscious of this need, in the sense that they understand the need to lay off when profits are threatened. They further understand the role mass unemployment plays in keeping wages lower in industry. And frequently they use racism to pit the employed against the unemployed.

In short, while unemployment appears to be the “unintended” consequence of the business decisions of individual bosses, it is essential to the growth of profits for the capitalist class as a whole.

The union leaders’ call to “save the middle class,” now echoed by Obama, describes the time when a few more workers — mostly white — had some job security and the chance for a decent retirement. But they are still subject to the ravages of capitalist crises — mass unemployment and wage-cuts — as remaining members of the working class, and by no means are “middle class.”

Communists must fight racist unemployment tooth and nail now, while constantly pointing out that only communist revolution, which abolishes the bosses’ system of wage slavery and profits, will forever end its scourge.

★ ★ ★

## Doing Away With Signatures

You may have noticed that this year’s letters are unsigned. This grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual. We discourage a “following” around a particular letter writer. The value of a letter comes from its insight, rather than the individual who wrote it. Doing away with letter signatures is consistent with PLP’s practice of collective authorship of our articles and editorials.

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# Haiti: Battle For Survival

**Continued from page 5**

On Feb. 5 at 10 AM, a march was organized by students and workers to the offices of the Minister of Finance/Economy, followed by a sit-in. The police came, armed to the teeth, and dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas, water cannons (filled with chemically treated water), rubber and live bullets, and batons. No one was spared this violence by the armed forces of repression who have all of state power at their disposal. Yet, as news of the attack spread, militant student organizations from other campuses joined the resistance. The police attempt to spread terror throughout the working class was not allowed to go unanswered.

## Fake Left Sides With the Oppressors

It is also becoming clearer to many here that the opposition and other political parties are organizing to put themselves in Martelly's place. They hang onto the coattails of the working-class movement, whose demands are just but whose organizational level is not yet developed enough for the task at hand. The working class is also saddled with a so-called trade union movement that is either openly on the side of the bosses or somewhat less openly so. These forces are constantly in conflict for the leadership of struggles. But because they are all ready to sell out at the drop of a hat, they weaken the mass working-class movement.

The Progressive Labor Party in Haiti understands that this struggle is on the

wrong road when workers and students let themselves be influenced by the "militant" speeches of the bourgeois politicians on the fake left (who only call for the reform of the capitalist system) and other political parties vying for power. The bosses' press buries the revolutionary aspirations of the working class and covers every syllable of the sellouts' speeches because they hide the true nature of capitalism and imperialism — the system depends on the super-exploitation of workers in order to make profits, and they will not give up easily. Only armed struggle for communist revolution and an egalitarian system without money, racism, sexism, wars and profits will change the lives of the billions of workers around the world.

## Workers Need Determined, Communist Party: PLP

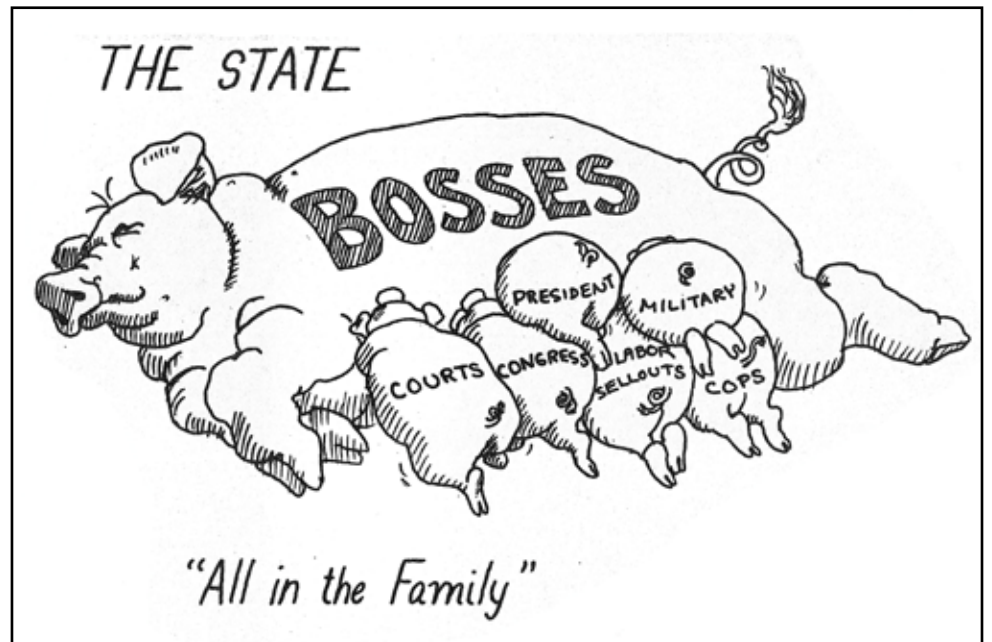
On campus, we are determined not to let the leadership of the student-worker movement fall into the hands of those close to the fake-left or openly bourgeois parties. For progressive and revolutionary-minded students, all struggles need the analysis and leadership of a well-organized revolutionary communist party, the PLP. Our Party is still young and developing in Haiti. Despite living under very difficult condi-

tions, we are working to build a solid party, well-entrenched in the working class.

On Feb. 8, a mass meeting was held at the social science branch of UEH. The agenda was to analyze the current situation, and take stock of the progressive forces and their political line in relation to the bourgeois politicians. With leadership from PLP, it was agreed that students and workers need a determined, unapologetic revolutionary communist party to give direction to workers' struggles in this and the coming period.

Our Party must be bold and militant in word and deed, and fight ceaselessly in the interests of all sections of

the working class: unionized and non-unionized, employed and unemployed, urban and rural, young and old, women and men, worker and student. For the current fight, we need to do a better job in raising the political consciousness of workers and students. We need more literature explaining why the local and imperialist bosses have kept workers in Haiti from "enjoying the benefits" of the current drop in gasoline prices. We need to expose how the current crop of criminals in power — Martelly & Co. — serve the interests of their imperialist masters, and how to prepare the groundwork for building our international communist party. Dare to struggle, dare to win.✊



## 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

### Israeli troops ordered to 'kill, kill, kill,' à la Nazi slaughter of Jews

NYT, 1/26 — Tel Aviv — A young Israeli soldier, fresh from the front, bluntly recounts the orders from above. "They...said, 'Show no mercy...' The brigade commander said to kill as many as possible."

Another recalls encountering Arabs on rooftops. "They're civilians — should I kill them or not?" he asks himself. "I didn't even think about it. Just kill! Kill everyone you see." And a third makes it personal: "All of us... we're not murderers. In the war, we all became murderers."

The wrenching, taped testimony is...from the 1967 war....

Based on interviews that the military heavily edited at the time, it includes accounts of Israelis summarily executing prisoners and evacuating Arab villages in a manner that one fighter likened to the Nazi treatment of European Jews.

### Red Army advance forced Nazis to flee Auschwitz death camp

GW, 1/30 — On 18 January 1945, Nazi camp commanders, facing the Soviet army's rapid advance, abandoned their plans to destroy Auschwitz....

...Those nursed back to health by Soviet forces and those who survived...created the terrible, detailed chronicle of camp life preserved in the [Auschwitz] museum.

### U.S. invasion of Afghanistan long way from ending

NYT, 1/29 — ...Washington's war in Afghanistan nominally ended at the turn of the year, when...a new mission...began. While it's tempting to think that American troops and taxpayer dollars are no longer at war in Afghanistan, they very much are. More than 10,000 American troops are there training and supporting the Afghans.

The Obama administration has pledged to continue spending billions to keep the Afghan government afloat for years.

### Appealing to U.S. over racist murder of Michael Brown produces zilch

NYT, 1/22 — Justice Department lawyers will recommend that no civil rights charges be brought against the police officer who fatally shot an unarmed teenager in Ferguson, Mo., after an F.B.I. investigation found no evidence to support charges, law enforcement officials said....

Soon after the shooting, witnesses told reporters that Mr. Brown had his hands up in a gesture of surrender when he was shot and killed by Mr. Wilson on a city street.

### Same story: U.S. war crimes in Abu Ghraib and....

NYT, 2/5 — ...At the Abu Graib prison during the early days of the Iraq war...detainees under American control were raped, beaten, shocked, stripped, starved of food and sleep, hung by their wrists, threatened with death and...murdered. These are war crimes....

Yet more than a decade after...only a few low-level military personnel have been held criminally accountable for the abuse and torture that went on there.... Private companies...contracted with the United States military to help "interrogate" detainees are still trying to avoid any accounting....They had no problem taking taxpayers' money....

...A long-running civil suit first brought in 2008 by four Iraqi men alleging that they were tortured on orders of private contractors at Abu Graib....were eventually released without charge....

...According to one report, the torture and abuse were the work of...military personnel and the contractors who told them to "soften up" detainees for interrogation....

...The military relies increasingly on contractors. By 2010, a quarter million contractor employees were working for American forces in Iraq and Afghanistan — more than the total number of United States troops.... CACI, which was paid more than \$19 million for its work

at the prison, continues to collect millions in government contracts.

### ....Police crimes in New York City

NYT, 2/4 — A man whose conviction for...murder... in 1992....Antonio Yarbough and a co-defendant, Sharif Wilson, were cleared by DNA evidence...after spending more than two decades in prison. Mr. Wilson died in January...

It was a summer day in 1992 when Mr. Yarbough, then 18, came home to his apartment....His mother, his 12-year-old sister and a friend of the sister were dead....

Mr. Yarbough called the police, but he and his friend, Mr. Wilson, then 15, were soon accused of the crime. The police coerced Mr. Wilson into a video-taped confession...and had Mr. Yarbough to sign his name to a written statement.

Other than Sharif's false testimony and Antonio's false confession, no evidence of any kind linked Antonio to the murders....The police lied to the defendants, threatened them with guns and deprived them of sleep "consistent with the prevailing practice among New York City police detectives...."

Mr. Yarbough was sentenced to 75 years to life....

[In 2013]...DNA testing...matched DNA found in...a woman, Magdalia Ruiz, who was raped and killed in 1999, while the co-defendants were in prison. That suspect has not been found.

### U.S. Condone Oil-rich Saudi Arabia's 'Corrupt and Wicked Rule'

NYT, 1/25 — The Western response to the death of... [the] king of Saudi Arabia...[noted U.S. Secy. of State] John Kerry describe the late monarch as "a man of wisdom and vision" and a "revered leader...."

...Anyone outside Western officialdom is free to tell the fuller truth: that Abdullah presided over one of the world's most wicked...states....His dynasty is founded on gangsterish control over a precious natural resource...and protected by the United States and its allies.... [and] where religious uniformity is enforced by the police and the lash....

...The American interest in the...continuation of the [Saudi] royal family's corrupt and wicked rule is, if anything, even stronger than before.

# Class Struggle Rages in India

Workers are fighting determined battles against the bosses in India, a country with almost one-fourth of the world's population, more than the Western Hemisphere plus Europe combined. PLP is growing roots and winning workers to our international party, and for communist revolution.

## Workers and Students Fight Sexism and Battle Bosses

Worldwide attention focused on the systematic sexist violence against women when a medical student, Jyoti Singh, was raped and murdered on a New Delhi bus in 2012. Thousands of demonstrating workers then broadened the grassroots struggle against sexism throughout India, especially in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Recently, tens of thousands of students in Kolkata marched in protest against the corrupt cover-up of a sexual harassment incident, and dozens were arrested in clashes with the police. The main university was disrupted for weeks, with many functions completely shut down.

In the same city, workers producing jute, a rope-like substance made from plants, have fought back particularly hard. The hard labor to make jute might earn from \$1.60 to \$6.50 per day. This is nothing compared to the amount the bosses make off of this product, and many workers have had their hours cut. In one factory, workers physically attacked a plant manager who cut the workers' hours and, in the attack, the manager was killed. In a separate attack, workers damaged a plant manager's home while the manager escaped. These attacks are not isolated examples of workers' fightback, as thousands of auto, transportation and agricultural workers have staged militant strikes in the north and south of the country.

India has a rich history of class struggle and revolutionary movements, which have been betrayed again and again by political parties claiming to be "communist" while joining with the bosses in helping to exploit the working class. Many working-class people became disillusioned with these parties, especially the mainstream "Communist" Party of India, and simply did not vote, which resulted in the electoral victory of the right-wing capitalist parties over the usual liberal capitalist parties. The bosses' current right-wing Hindu nationalist party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has a mass base in the viciously racist and sexist Hindu nationalist movement, the Hindutva, which has many similarities to Hitler's Nazi Party.

In 2002, Modi was Chief Minister in the state of Gujarat, India's industrial and commercial heart, Hindutva mobs rioted and murdered over 1,000 Muslims following years of anti-Muslim, nationalist propaganda. During the killings, Modi had requested the police and security forces not to intervene. While Modi is now Prime Minister and openly dedicated to helping giant corporations and banks accumulate more and more wealth, those workers won to Hindutva ideology are being used the same way that Hitler used middle-income types rocked by economic crisis to turn against their working-class brothers and sisters.

### Separate Struggles With the Same Goal

The stakes are high in India. The increase in working class fightback in India is extremely positive, and workers around the world can learn from their example and their heroism. But unless workers in India are won to a revolutionary communist party with an international outlook of organizing billions to lead a revolution and destroy capitalism, workers will continue to be divided and suffer grinding poverty and vicious racist and sexist attacks. All these struggles show the courage and determination of many working-class people. But all of these movements also reveal the weaknesses that will destroy these movements as fascist repression intensifies.

All of the struggles are divided with no revolutionary communist party to tie them together and build the type of mass movement that workers need. The women's movement in Delhi was an important part of the recent struggles against sexism, but is a single-issue movement. Killing an individual boss here and there will not systematically change the lives of jute workers of Kolkata — they need a revolutionary party to destroy the bosses' entire system of capitalism. That means building unity with the women's and student movements, which number in the tens of thousands in the same city. It means unity with fellow striking auto workers and agricultural farmers. In the countryside, the government is using the military to push the indigenous Adivasi people off their land to make room for big corporations who want to



Women workers battle police during an anti-rape demonstration.  
Men and women workers must unite to abolish sexism.

steal it, and the military has been especially brutal.

The capitalists in India are not fools — they know to maintain their power, regionally and nationally, they need to pit one group against the other. The capitalists have also found ways to effectively use the centuries-old caste system of ranking people by birth — technically banned — even as they pretend to oppose it. These types of racism severely super-exploit and oppress targeted groups like the Adivasi, the Muslims and lower-caste workers. But they also split up and distract the whole working class from a unified fight against our common oppression. This keeps the whole working class down. PLP has always made the struggle against all forms of racism the front edge of our struggle to build a communist movement.

### Workers Need a Revolutionary Party to Go All the Way

The masses of workers fighting back have been breaking away from the fake "communists" and other capitalist parties with their false promises about reforming capitalism. Capitalism is the reason for these nightmares in the first place — centuries of imperialism and vicious racism gave way to national independence and instead of British capitalists, workers are oppressed by Indian capitalists.

PLP's strategy of building an international party has had greater appeal to many workers and students as nationalist movements have become the new oppressors. In the past, the communist movement tried to compromise with nationalism. It believed that nationalism was a necessary aspect of the struggle against imperialism. History has proven what PLP pointed out almost fifty years ago — that nationalism leads potentially communist movements right back to capitalism. In India, and throughout South and Central Asia, PLP is systematically expanding its influence among industrial workers, students, and grassroots organizations, fighting for workers to understand that the working class in the whole region has the same destiny as their sisters and brothers all over the world, and need one party to destroy imperialism at its core: capitalism.✪

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