

CHALLENGE



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Students, Parents, Teachers Unite: Slam Racist School Bosses

BROOKLYN, NY, December 16 — "Segregation means we have to fight back! Scanning means we have to fight back!" were just two of the many chants that rang out on cold, windy Seventh Avenue as over 100 students and staff rallied in front of the John Jay HS campus. This biggest and most energetic rally yet caused many passers-by to stop and congratulate the students for standing up to the racist Department of Education (DoE).

As CHALLENGE has reported in recent issues, the DoE is advancing its proposal to install a new, well-equipped selective school within our building, catering to the mostly-white, middle-class Park Slope neighborhood. All this while the DoE continues to slash the budgets of the "non-selective" overwhelmingly black and Latino schools that already exist.

This anti-racist struggle is uniting students, parents and staff from the schools within the building, directly countering the DoE's divide-and-conquer policies implemented throughout the city. We're counteracting its creation of segregated and unequal schools as well as its lies that "lazy teachers" and "neglectful parents" are the main causes of school failures.

The truth is that the racist, capitalist system has no need to provide a decent education for all. Current schooling is geared to supply future soldiers ready to kill or die for Big Oil's imperialist wars and the next generation of low-wage workers and unemployed youth. These are just some of the lessons learned from our struggle to stop the opening of this new school.

Within this context, the school's debate team decided to put on a "Know Your Rights" panel discussion. About 200 students listened attentively as the debaters covered topics from "Schools and Prisons" to "Student Alienation" to "Inequalities between SSLJR [Secondary School for Law, Journalism and Research] and the proposed Millennium Brooklyn" school.

The debaters explained that having metal detectors in schools was a racist act because most city schools containing them had predominantly black and Latino students, the highest poverty rates and the highest rates of Special Education and English Language Learners. One student was cheered when he stated, "When students leave

school, they may not know math or history but they will surely know how to assume the position."

The debaters also pointed out that many students felt alienated because they were treated like prisoners — barred from walking around in the cafeteria, required to wear uniforms in one of the schools and not allowed to go outside for lunch while the mostly-white elementary school children were.

Another debater, exposing a new uniform policy in one of the schools, had to pause for clapping and cheers when she explained that "uniforms are an unnecessary exertion of power by administrators who are looking for ways to control the students. But it's obviously not working since only about ten percent of the school is wearing them."

Students, parents and teachers have collectively organized these activities. We're trying to inform as many people as possible about the DoE's racist disregard for our students and the importance of fighting back. This struggle has involved many new people. CHALLENGE is becoming the paper of the masses in this battle and is seen by many as the newspaper reporting the truth about our school. We're confronting capitalism's racism head-on.

Victory in this struggle will not mainly be measured by whether or not Millennium Brooklyn arrives in the fall. That school, as all others under capitalism, will continue to teach the bosses' ideology. Our victory will be in spreading the idea that we must fight for a communist world, where workers make decisions based on our needs, not the bosses' need for profit. Only then will educating all for the betterment of workers worldwide become a priority. ☘

Join us at the public hearing. Show the racist Department of Education that we won't take this lying down!

Date: January 11th, 2011

Time: 6pm

Location: John Jay Campus, 237 7th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217

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U.S. Rulers' Profit Aims for 2011: Worldwide Wars Against Working Class

The New Year opens with the U.S. ruling class contemplating expanded wars for profit on many fronts, especially the Afghanistan-Pakistan and Iraq campaigns — all inherently crimes against the international working class. By drones and other means, U.S. rulers are committing racist atrocities in order to secure Central Asian oil and gas supplies and energy transit routes, as well as positioning themselves strategically against future clashes with China and Russia.

Obama Steps Up Nazi-Style Drone Terror in Pakistan, Targets Civilians

U.S. imperialists "celebrated" New Year's Day by slaughtering 18 "suspected militants" with CIA-guided drone missiles in Pakistan. Assassin-in-chief Obama okayed the hits from his Hawaiian vaca-

tion resort. The killings follow a "record number of 124 attacks in the tribal areas of Pakistan in 2010, more than double the number of Predator strikes conducted in 2009, killing 1,184 people, compared with 2009's death toll of 760 in 53 such attacks." (The News, Pakistan, 1/1/2011)

Terrorism from the air, recalling the World War II Nazi's V-2 rocket blitz on London, has joined massacre and torture as part of U.S. rulers' standard operating procedure. Many of the dead are civilians. According to Britain's Channel 4 News (12/22/10), "Women and children...have also perished while the sheer number of drone flights has caused panic and terror among ordinary tribespeople. It is clear that a changing strategy has often put villages rather than remote hideouts in the firing line."

Obama's escalation of remote-controlled murder reflects several harsh realities. First and foremost, war-making U.S. capitalists have utter, racist disregard for working-class lives. Second, U.S.-led warfare is rapidly expanding beyond Iraq and Afghanistan, with global ramifications. And third, despite its lethal technological superiority, the Pentagon can't yet deploy massive ground forces.

This becomes a problem for Obama & Co. when considering potentially necessary invasions of Iran and North Korea, not to mention future war with China. The ruling-class mouthpiece, the NY Times editorialized (1/2/11): "China seems increasingly intent on challenging United States naval supremacy in the Western Pacific....China could soon deploy a ballistic missile capable of threatening American aircraft carriers in the region....Dealing with a rising China could be Washington's biggest challenge in the decades ahead."

All of the above would require ground armies which U.S. commanders do not yet possess.

U.S. Rulers' Afghan-Pakistan Strategy Underlies Road to World War III

Controlling the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline route and vast Afghan mineral resources motivates the immediate Obama Afghan-Pakistan killing surge. But defeating, or at least limiting, the Taliban in both countries is essential for U.S. planners focused on a future World War. Robert Blackwill, a senior fellow at the influential Rockefeller-run Council on Foreign Relations think-tank and a national security adviser to Bush, Jr., urged Obama to abandon his fake Afghan pullout rhetoric (Foreign Affairs, January-February/2011):

"[Withdrawal] would lead to the rapid resumption of an all-out Afghan civil war and then to a probable conquest of the entire country by the Taliban. It would draw Afghanistan's neighbors into the fighting, destabilizing the region and further souring relations between New Delhi [India] and Islamabad [Pakistan]. It would raise the odds of the Islamic radicalization of Pakistan, which would in turn call into question the safety and security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. It would weaken, if not rupture, the budding U.S.-Indian strategic partnership [against China], undermine NATO's [anti-Russian] future, and trigger a global outpouring of support for [anti-Saudi, al Qaeda-style] jihadist ideology."

Without full U.S. mobilization, though, Blackwill can propose only partition, maintaining

35,000-50,000 U.S. troops in key parts of Afghanistan and yielding the outlying mountainous areas to the Taliban, though on a very short leash. If the U.S. caught Afghan Taliban aiding al Qaeda, "The sky over [Taliban-controlled] Pashtun, Afghanistan would be filled with Predators targeting not only terrorist activities but also, if necessary, the new Afghan Taliban government in all its dimensions."

Air Power Alone Won't Cut It; Bosses Must Double Army, Marines for Occupying Force

Ex-CIA boss General Michael Hayden said in Bob Woodward's book, "Obama's Wars": "The great lesson of World War II and Vietnam was that attack from the air, even massive bombings, can't win a war." U.S. rulers need armies of occupation far larger than their present strength. At a December 22 forum held by the Brookings Institution, another imperialist policy factory, Michael O'Hanlon, military advisor to Hillary Clinton, observed:

"We do have the capability...to overthrow the Iranian regime. We...would have to have a Marine Corps and Army that would be probably twice their current size to really do an occupation of Iran with its 75 million population correctly over a period of years." (Brookings website) The Brookings forum also discussed "occupation of North Korea" and "conflict with China."

Dream Act + Ending 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' = Militarization

How the U.S. war machine can at least double its needed ground troops weighs heavily on Obama and the imperialists he serves. Obama strove mightily, but failed, to get the Dream Act through December's lame-duck Congress. The Act had the potential of enlisting (back-door drafting) millions of immigrant youth into the military in exchange for the promise of U.S. citizenship. "Passage of the Dream Act is one of its [the Pentagon's] official goals for helping to maintain 'a mission-ready, all-volunteer force.'" (NY Times editorial, 9/2010) (The college "option" is a fraud since more and more low-income youth can't afford the rising tuitions.)

Meanwhile, domestically-focused Tea Party forces are asserting greater control over immigration policy by driving to duplicate the racist Arizona anti-immigrant law in other states, aimed at undocumented workers, but with even harsher penalties. This conflicts with Obama's imperialist faction which seeks a war-bent policy centralized in Washington.

The Obama camp, however, did succeed in repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This reopened the door to officer training (ROTC) on Ivy League campuses which had previously restricted ROTC because the Pentagon policy discriminated against gays and lesbians. The Pentagon needs a fresh supply of ROTC-trained officers. The policy had also discharged thousands whom Obama hoped would re-enlist following the repeal.

The horrors of imperialist war are also leading to tens of thousands of GI's developing post-traumatic stress disorder, limiting their fighting potential and resulting in ever-rising numbers committing suicide after constant re-deployments, still another brake on an expanding military.

The embattled capitalists Obama serves want to raise their killing capacity from merely dozens of drones to invading armies in the millions. PLP must expose the rulers' renewed efforts to expand their worker-killing war machine through a Dream Act, enhancement of its officer corps through ROTC or any other end-run at militarization that the troop-starved war-makers cook up.

Rulers Bleed Workers to Finance Wars and Create Economic Draft

PLP'ers and militant workers and youth must step up actions we've already launched against the ruling class's massive budget cuts that they're using to finance their imperialist wars: their raising of fares and job and wage-cuts in mass transit

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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. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.**

★ **Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.**

★ **Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.**

★ **Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.**

★ **Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.**

★ **Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!**

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Why Articles Are Not Signed

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

United Arab-Jewish Anti-Apartheid Rally Stuns Israeli Cops

ISSAWIYE, ISRAEL, December 3 — About 500 demonstrators, including many local residents and youth as well as hundreds of Israeli workers and activists, marched in multi-national solidarity against the crimes of the Israeli apartheid regime against the Issawiye neighborhood. Stunned cops were too scared to enter the neighborhood while the rally lasted! The cowardly riot cops and "border guards" (paramilitary cops) dared to show their ugly faces in Issawiye and brutally assault the locals with clubs and tear gas only after most of the Jewish demonstrators had left the area.

The Israeli regime does anything in its power to grab lands and encircle — and, indeed, strangle — the local Arab-Palestinian residents. Soon after the Israeli conquest of Issawiye in 1967, the Haddasah Hospital and the Hebrew University expanded their buildings at the expense of the neighborhood, blocking most of its entrances with gates, fences and structures.

Many lands to the east of the neighborhood, which were once owned by local residents, were seized and given to settlements, such as Maale Edomim, as well as to a large police base observing the neighborhood.

This goes to show that workers have no stake in the bosses' laws regarding private property or security. Such laws exist to serve the most powerful capitalists and they are happy to rewrite or break them whenever they like. This is life in the Issawiye ghetto: ever-tightening encirclement, less and less space and ever-increasing police brutality.

The residents of Issawiye, like the residents of



Jewish and Palestinian youth defy racist cops.

other neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, have Israeli IDs, and they pay taxes to the Israeli regime and to the Jerusalem municipality, but they lack full civil rights (for example, they cannot vote for the Knesset). The state and the city rarely invest any money, resources or manpower in developing the neighborhood or providing it with necessary services.

The youth of Issawiye, lacking educational services or any decent form of recreation for the afternoon hours, roam the neighborhood and sink into violence and boredom. A number of bored youth threw stones at a passing Israeli car in October

2010, and since then the cops have attacked the residents of Issawiye again and again, arresting kids and spraying large quantities of tear gas into the neighborhood.

Faced with this racist repression, the workers in all of Palestine and Israel — Jews and Arabs alike — must follow the example of the December 3rd demonstration and fight back against Israeli capitalists. Only a united workers' struggle can defeat the racist rulers, and only workers' power — the dictatorship of the proletariat and a communist economy — will be able to create decent living conditions for the residents of East Jerusalem! ✪

Racist Panelists Duck Anti-Racists' Challenge

BOSTON, MA, December 15 — Two students at Roxbury Community College (RCC) took immediate action by organizing a protest against the brutal attack on a black youth by Boston police on Oct 22 (see, CHALLENGE 12/15/10). Some members of the RCC faculty took a different approach to the racist attack. They responded to the militancy of the students by organizing a symposium on urban violence.

A local judge, police lieutenant, and a youth advocate from "Street Safe" (all black) were guest speakers on the panel that tried to convince predominantly black and Latino students to trust in the racist justice system. The symposium shifted into a therapy session instead of a political discussion on the systemic racism of urban violence. The panelists purposely ignored political questions raised by students. One student asked "When will the boy who was brutalized by the police get justice." The question went unanswered.

The lack of consciousness from the crowd gave the panelists some advantage over the symposium. They focused on pushing people to rely on the police as a solution. "You guys know who the killers and drug dealers are, so pick up the phone and call the police." However, some people did not fall for this statement because they distrust the police who routinely harass and

attack workers in the community.

The solutions the panelists gave were more like the problems working people already faced: police harassment and intimidation. Realistically, urban violence will never end as long as we live in a capitalistic society in which the rich exploit the working class.

When the discussions became more political, the moderator dismissed students and faculty early for lunch. They blamed students for being apathetic and passive on the issue of urban violence to distract students from discussing the issues of poverty and class.

The only way we can eradicate such violence in our neighborhoods is to confront the source. The justice system is used to terrorize workers into not fighting back against the increasing misery and exploitation caused by the economic crises of capitalism.

Since the panel, we have built a real base for the spread of communist consciousness among RCC students. We now have a regular student PLP study group which is learning about capitalism, fascism, and racism. We have distributed CHALLENGES and PLP leaflets at RCC. We are planning a one-day school on political economy and developing a plan for RCC students to distribute leaflets against racist school closings in Boston. ✪

Palestine: Workers, Students Stop Racist Boss's Firings

REHOVOT, December 15 — Students, workers, and union activists demonstrated in front of the Hebrew University Faculty of Agriculture, handing out leaflets to students and professors demanding the immediate return of fired black Ethiopian-Jewish cleaning workers.

The university, located in Rehovot (to the south of Tel-Aviv-Jaffa), outsources its cleaning to private contractors, who employ mostly immigrant workers at very low wages and without any form of job security. The current contractor thus uses racism to super-exploit workers.

The Ethiopian-Jewish holiday of Sigd occurs near the end of November. When four cleaning workers asked the boss for a day off so they could celebrate their holiday, he refused, threatening to fire them if they missed a day of work.

He does grant vacation on regular Jewish holidays as required by law, but ignores the needs and traditions of Ethiopian Jews as he wants to squeeze every last bit of labor-power from these exploited women. The workers stayed home for the holiday nonetheless, and when they returned to work the following week, they were fired.

These workers, however, did not stand alone. When the Forum for Direct Employment at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Student's Union in Rehovot and the Power to the Workers union heard of this, they organized to fight back against this racist contractor.

The contractor boss, who didn't expect anyone to stand by the side of immigrant Ethiopian workers, was terrified by this show of solidarity. Within a few hours, the fired workers got their jobs back. While some of them are unwilling to return to the work with such a racist boss, for at least one of the workers the action saved her job.

We will continue to follow the development of this struggle as the Power to the Workers union intends to organize the cleaning workers and help them fight for job security and decent work conditions.

As communists, we stand by the side of workers when they fight back against the bosses' racism, exploitation and brutality. But as communists, we also know that the capitalists will find a way to take back any hard-won reform. The only way to win real safety and really decent conditions for all workers regardless of race, nationality or gender is to get rid of the bosses once and for all and put the working class in power — in other words, organize a communist revolution for the dictatorship of the proletariat! ✪



NYC Rally Backs Rebellion in Haiti against U.S./UN Oppressors

NEW YORK CITY, December 17 — “Haitian rebels are under attack: what do we do? Stand up, fight back!” “Clinton, Préval, you can’t hide: we charge you with genocide!” Chants from fifty angry demonstrators bounced off the walls of the Haitian consulate building in Manhattan, as crowds of workers passed by on their way home in the frigid night. Speakers and flyers explained why workers in Haiti were right to rebel in the streets in the face of UN armored troop carriers, as living conditions there grow absolutely intolerable.

Haiti has 1.3 million homeless, 70% unemployment, more than a million school-age children excluded from schooling, a raging cholera epidemic in which 650,000 people (6% of the population) are expected to fall ill in 2011. The promised earthquake aid money has failed to reach the people and reconstruction plans rebuild for profit, not for people. Compared to all this, a rigged election is the least of their worries.

We praised the rebels in Haiti for showing

the way ahead for workers everywhere, as similar rebellions break out in Europe. As a black building worker we spoke to recently about racism against Latino immigrants told us: “The whole world is waiting for a revolutionary change!” The rally was coordinated with activist union and student friends in Haiti. They included a photo and a statement from our rally in their press conference at a demonstration against the military occupation by MINUSTAH (UN Mission to Stabilize Haiti) and for free public schools for all.



NYC workers and youth show solidarity with rebels in Haiti.

We handed out the CHALLENGE issue (12/15/10) with an article on this Haitian campaign for public schools, versus the plan of the Reconstruction Commission to rebuild mainly charter schools on the New Orleans post-Katrina model.

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Israeli Regime Spawns Blatant Nazi-Style Racism

TEL-AVIV, December 21 — Hundreds of racists demonstrated in the open in southern Tel-Aviv against the presence of refugees and immigrants in their neighborhoods. They called for the immediate deportation of all immigrants and called the refugees, many of whom have fled to Palestine from the genocide in Darfur, “stinking n___s.” One demonstrator even called for the houses of refugees and immigrants to be burned down.

This nauseating display of unashamed racism was backed by right-wing rabbis and neighborhood leaders. While the bosses’ government issued a half-hearted condemnation against it, it did not lift a finger against the racist thugs.

On December 20th, about two hundred fascist activists, again led by right-wing rabbis and by the ultra-racist Knesset Member Michael Ben-Ari, demonstrated in Bat Yam (a municipality to the south of Tel-Aviv) against the presence of Palestinian Arabs in their town. They claimed that the Arabs were “taking their daughters.” They protested against “the mixing of races” and shouted “Arabs Out!”

These racist slogans echo Nazi rants about Jews “polluting the Aryan race” and the Nazi slogan “Juden Raus” (“Jews Out.”) Two weeks earlier, a large group of right-wing rabbis issued a religious decree claiming that it is “against Judaism” to rent apartments and houses to Arabs.

This blatant racism, backed by religion and Zionist phrasemongering, is by no means a

grass-roots phenomenon. In fact, the Israeli government is the very source of this racism. The Israeli regime currently plans to build a “holding camp” with barbed-wire fences and armed guards in the middle of the Negev desert — in other words, a concentration camp — to keep refugees imprisoned. A few months ago, the Israeli Prison Service practiced how to construct detention camps for Palestinian Arabs who might resist deportation into the Palestinian Authority as part of a future “peace” agreement.

The fact that this wave of racism appeared days after the Carmel fire fiasco, the largest fire in Israel’s history, is not a coincidence. The regime, eager to hide the fact that it had ruined the fire department by massive budget cuts and wage cuts, instigates racist hysteria to distract the workers and evade the masses’ wrath.

Racism in Israel, like in all other countries, is a tool used by the bosses. It divides and weakens the working class by turning the Jewish worker against the Palestinian Arab worker and the immigrant worker. As workers, we must oppose this deceitful tactic and unite against our real enemy: the bosses who rob and exploit all of us on a daily basis.

The real answer to racism and fascism is workers’ unity, workers’ fight-back and a communist revolution by the united working class. We will overthrow the worlds’ bosses and build a workers’ communist world free of hate, racism, exploitation and fear. Workers of all countries unite! ☺

Organize the Jobless to Fight Racist Unemployment

NEW YORK CITY, December 6 — “I think it’s not fair to U.S. workers how they send jobs out of the country,” said Lisa as a group of workers were talking about unemployment. “But that’s what they always do,” responded Jenny. “It’s the way the system works. That’s how the capitalists make profits all over the world.”

“Some people are lazy, they expect free help,” said Jaime. “But there’s no assistance. It’s welfare to work,” explained Nelson. “Everyone is looking for work and there are no jobs.” “I work 12 hours a day, six days a week in a restaurant. When I demanded overtime the boss said OK, work 40 hours here and look for a second job,” said Juan. “Or stay here, work your 60 hours and get the money you need for your family.”

“There are no legal protections, only class struggle,” responded Jenny.

The capitalists and their politician servants are debating the economic crisis in terms of government spending, tax cuts, rising healthcare costs and “costly entitlements” like Social Security and Medicare. Their debate results in a massive attack on the working class while covering up the cause of the economic crisis.

The working class needs to listen to Jenny. The crisis comes from the anarchy and competition of the capitalist system. Only revolution to establish communism — a system that produces based on need, not profit — offers the world’s working class a future.

U.S. unemployment is “officially” about 10% but including under-employment it’s 21%; double that for black and Latino workers. Over 8 million jobs have been lost in this Great Recession in the U.S. The ruling class predicts “recovery” to take 4-5 years. Their so-called recovery (“normal” is 6 million jobless) will be based on a greatly expanded military, increased

military production, and much greater exploitation. It also means deep cuts in federal, state and city spending as U.S. imperialism gears up for bigger wars against its competitors.

The workers quoted above are involved in efforts to establish a jobs committee in the neighborhood group where we organize and study. Workers in the group have voted to set up a committee with nine members and new leadership. We are writing a “join us” leaflet to use in the group and surrounding community.

Organize the Unemployed

Our goal is to get at least 50 participants to begin the campaign. The leaflet says: “Demand jobs now. Make the bosses and bankers pay. No deals, no compromises. Demand the government provide assistance to all unemployed and underemployed workers, no matter their status — citizen, documented or undocumented. Make the rich pay. No negotiations.”

Our approach calls on rank-and-file workers to join, lead and go on the political offensive in direct action. Meanwhile the neighborhood group represents the liberal ruling class agenda of legislative reform, voting and engaging and getting support from the politicians. Limited reforms are presented as victories for the workers, while in reality the quality of life for the working class is being eroded.

PLP is active in the neighborhood group and the jobs committee. We are distributing 75 CHALLENGES, including six networks and have a study-action group. We expect sharp struggle within the group as the political ideas, organizing and protests of the committee develop.

We know that PL members and friends must be determined and principled. There is both danger and opportunity. The struggle is worth every ounce of our strength! ☺

Mexico: Red School Cuts Through Bosses' Crap

MEXICO CITY, December 18 — This past weekend, about 25 members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party organized a communist school. Over the two days workers, teachers and young people studied the PLP document "Reform and Revolution" (see PLP website). A comrade teacher summarized the essence of the subject: "The importance of recognizing the limits between reform and revolution is needed to keep the ideas of the Party and of communism firm. The lack of clarity in this subject can lead to abandoning the fight for revolution, whether it's because in our practice reform dominates or because we isolate ourselves from the workers and their struggles."

Most of the people were impressed by a young female comrade's welcome with a poster where she explained how capitalism chains our minds through consumerism, nationalism and electoral politics. She also showed us the importance of our task to break those chains.

The international character of the Party was present with the participation of two comrades from another Latin American country. With their experiences and understanding they stressed the importance of dedication to the Party and to communism.

A comrade discussed the struggle the Party began in the community to the east of the Valley of Mexico to prevent its flooding (see 12/01/10). He explained the role that CHALLENGE has played in showing neighbors that the only solution is communism and that capitalism will never be capable of solving the problems it creates. Capitalists make decisions based on what will create the most profit for them. Under communism decisions would be made based on what the working class needs.

Teachers from Oaxaca reported on the battles they fought against the fascist government of the state in 2006. They described how the Party has developed under those conditions; it has grown in its militancy and in the presence in the teaching profession and also amongst neighbors.

Three new workers described their admiration for the work our Party does and said they were ready to participate with us. One of them said: "the seed we represent gives the future hope." Another one said that he was very happy to encounter the ideas of his youth once again. At the end of the first day we had a gathering where camaraderie and solidarity prevailed. When the working class is united, it acquires the strength of steel which the bosses can't destroy, no matter how much force

they apply to it.

The second day we had a discussion about war and the importance of CHALLENGE. We also spoke about the situation of the working class internationally. Despite the current large protests globally we workers are on the defensive. We fight so that the bosses don't take away the reforms we won a century ago. That is why fighting to change capitalism is not enough. The rulers will always take away reforms workers fight for, to pay for their imperialist wars and economic crises. This shows the need of the Party to put the workers on the offensive to take power.

There was a heated discussion about the work in the Department of Transportation. It brought out that the contradiction between reform and revolution is solved with sharp internal struggle and in the class struggle. This struggle will be written for further discussion.

We ended both days with the singing of the "Internationale," the working-class anthem. We agreed on concrete tasks to reach more workers. We recognized the importance of being by their side in class struggle with the goal to build the Party and win them over to communist revolution. ☛

France — Answer to Racist Housing Crisis: Overthrow Capitalism

PARIS, December 24 — About 100 people demonstrated today outside the Ministry of Housing to demand housing for the homeless and the poorly-housed. They chanted, "Solidarity with the poorly housed!" and "The poorly-housed are angry, we are fed up with suffering!"

The protest was organized by the reformist group "Right to Housing" (DAL). Defining itself as an anti-racist organization, DAL is composed of 30 local committees nation-wide and organizes collective non-violent actions to demand decent housing for the homeless and poorly-housed.

A delegation was received by the junior minister for housing who made empty promises about "enforcing the laws." It's perfectly clear that the government — simply the tool of the capitalists and landlords — is unwilling to do anything to remedy the housing shortage.

In France, 8.8 million people are either homeless, poorly-housed, or live in unhealthily damp housing (not officially considered to be "poorly housed"); that's 14% of the population. In 2010, over 500,000 people have no home and must live with friends in mobile homes or in various kinds of shelters. Another 100,000 live in the streets and have a life expectancy of about 50 years, compared with 80 for the general population.

Racism in Housing

People of northern African (Arab) and sub-Saharan African (black) origin face massive racist housing discrimination. A 2006 study compared white, Arab and black people's chances of being invited to visit and/or being offered an apartment.

Those with French-sounding names who phone to visit an apartment were 1.5 times as likely as those with Arabic names to be invited to visit it, and over twice as likely as those with African names. After visiting an apartment, whites are 3.4 times as likely to be offered a rental contract as black Africans and 4.4 times as likely as Arabs.

Housing Shortage Inevitable under Capitalism

"Rebel! Get angry!" declared the geneticist Albert Jacquard at today's demonstration, saying, "We no longer live in a democracy. It is time we became one," an impossibility under capitalism.

In fact, as Karl Marx's colleague Frederick En-

gels wrote in "The Housing Question" in 1872, the housing shortage "is a necessary product of the bourgeois social order; it cannot fail to be present in a society in which the great masses of the workers are exclusively dependent upon wages...[and are] continually throw[n]...out of employment"...[leading to] a large reserve army of unemployed workers...drive[n]...onto the streets; in which the workers are crowded together in masses in the big towns, at a quicker rate than dwellings come into existence for them under existing conditions; in which, therefore, there must always be tenants even for the most infamous pigsties; and in which finally the house owner in his capacity as capitalist...in view of the competition...[is driven] ruthlessly [to] making as much out of his property in house rent as he possibly can."

Since capitalism cannot solve the housing shortage, the only definitive solution lies in its overthrow by the working class. Once this is achieved, Engels points out, "there are already in existence sufficient buildings for dwellings in the big towns to remedy immediately any real 'housing shortage,' given rational utilization of them. This can naturally only take place by the expropriation of the present owners and by quartering in their houses the homeless or those workers excessively overcrowded in their former houses."

This is as true today as it was in Engels' time. On September 29, the daily paper "Le Parisien" revealed a secret government list indicating that up to 25,000 public housing units remained unjustifiably unrented, whereas 700,000 people are on that waiting list. According to a May 2 TF1 television report, nearly two mil-

lion private housing units stand empty in France.

Truly, only communist revolution, eliminating landlords and their profit system, can solve this problem. ☛

Workers Shut Largest French Port

LE HAVRE, FRANCE, January 3 — Dock workers shut down the port here, the second-largest in France and the country's largest container port. The 24-hour strike, called by the CGT trade union, was a show of force in the run-up to the January 10 negotiations on early retirement for workers doing hard labor. All French ports are government-owned.

With market share of French ports falling, the government passed a port reform law to increase the exploitation of port workers and increase the bosses' competitiveness. Throughout 2010, numerous strikes erupted over the implementation of the reform.

As impressive as the strike was, it was far less than what the workers can achieve. If the workers in all seven government-owned ports walked out, 80% of French maritime traffic would cease. The CGT is threatening to do this — over the coming weekend. As usual, the labor fakers are organizing symbolic actions in hopes of winning crumbs.

Our power to shut down production — and consequently profits — is one of our class's key weapons. But even this is only a small part of the struggle for communist revolution, the only road to definite victory for the working class. ☛



October 12, 2010 demonstration against retirement reform in Le Havre.

LETTERS

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

Israeli Bosses Sap Workers' Lives

Nine capitalist families divide most of the economy between them: the Dankner family, the Ofer Brothers and so on. The Israeli government, headed by Benjamin Netanyahu, collaborates with these families.

The Knesset Member Amir Peretz put forward a proposal to increase the minimum wage by \$130. The Israeli Minister of the Treasury, Yuval Steinitz, responded that it would harm the big capitalist families and therefore increase unemployment.

All the Israeli administrations in history collaborated with the capitalist families. The politicians are paid off for keeping the ruling class firmly in power. With all the resources diverted into the pockets of the tycoons, there is no money for the needs of the working class:

- Healthcare (a shortage of hospital beds, hospitals, installations, and manpower);
- Fire-fighting (which failed miserably in the Carmel fire in early December 2010);
- Education ("free" public education is very expensive);
- Personal safety (lack of crime prevention);
- Justice (the jails are filled with innocents);
- The abject poverty of majority of the population (a result of pig-like capitalism).

Capitalism has failed all over the world: Israel, U.S., Europe, South America, Africa and Asia!

The only option we have is to demand a real alternative which will help the impoverished workers and fight against poverty. A fellow worker, who was born in [formerly socialist] Bulgaria, told me: "When the Communists were in power, things were good." But here, where the capitalists are in power, things will very bad for a very long time, until we communists rise again.

A Housekeeping Worker

Take Advantage of Rulers' Weak Spots

My workers' club decided to use the CHALLENGE editorial "U.S. Bosses' Tactical Split on Iran, Army Loyalty" for a meeting with Latino high school students and young workers. We tried to decide what was the most important point in it. We decided the best part was that working-class families in big cities aren't letting their kids join the army, and that black and Latino troops are avoiding combat. This is screwing up the rich U.S. bosses' efforts to save their empire. Workers living in Middle Eastern countries are resisting the U.S. too.

This shows that the working class has strength and can weaken the U.S. bosses. This weakness of the bosses — an army which is too small — is because workers are refusing to join up. Making the U.S. army weaker is an example of the working class taking advantage of the growing cracks in U.S. capitalism caused by inter-imperialist rivalry. The bosses need a growing army to defend their profits now that China, Russia and Europe are at their throats.

All workers can learn their strength as a class from this example and learn about a good way to attack the bosses — screw up their army. This is also building international solidarity with people in the countries the U.S. army is supposed to invade and attack. We wish the editorial talked more about how the U.S. working class can learn about the bosses' weak spots and how to make them even weaker until the working class can destroy the bosses' system.

Joe Worker

Editors' note: There are many ways workers can learn more about the rulers' weaknesses, including reading their press. Workers' best way to weaken the bosses is to engage in class struggle wherever we are. One of the Party's strategies for this is to join and organize in the bosses' military, which is very important to them and, as the letter points out, an area of concern.

Wrong Enemy — Wrong Fight

Tens of thousands of demonstrators in Germany, led by Greenpeace, tried recently to block a shipment of spent nuclear fuel, reprocessed in France for storage in Gorleben, Germany. A deep

salt mine has been hollowed out there in preparation, much like Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

The demonstrators are motivated by a healthy distrust of the capitalist German government. They also suspect that the government is doing the bidding of the nuclear industry executives.

However, the capitalist class around the world is split on the issue of nuclear energy, with those profiting handsomely from the fossil fuel industry (oil, coal, and natural gas) opposed, and those profiting from the nuclear industry in favor. So no matter which position the demonstrators take, they would be implicitly siding with one section of the capitalist class.

The anti-nuclear organizations in many countries are unfortunately greatly misinformed about nuclear energy. It is not nuclear energy, with its spent fuel, that results in tens of thousands of deaths every year. It is fossil fuels that cause an estimated two million unnecessary deaths around the world each year — from lung diseases, heart disease, cancer, and mining and refining accidents.

A major source of this fear is the ghost of Chernobyl a Ukrainian nuclear reactor that had an accident in 1986 and has since been the whipping boy of every anti-nuclear group.

Numerous studies of the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident, including a major one by the World Health Organization (WHO), have concluded that fewer than 60 people died as a result of the accident, far fewer than many mining accidents and fewer than most plane crashes. Since then, there has been no detectable increase in deaths above those that would be expected from other causes. Nevertheless there has been a steady stream of propaganda that attributes to that accident every death that occurred from whatever cause near Chernobyl. Numbers of such imaginary deaths have ranged as high as a million, but these imply that all other causes of death mysteriously ceased for many years.

Chernobyl's poor design and the absence of experienced supervision on that fateful evening were the main causes of the accident. But lessons were learned from it around the world, and all subsequent reactors have completely gotten rid of Chernobyl's faulty design. Indeed no subsequent reactor accident in the last quarter century anywhere in the world has resulted in even a single death!

Nuclear energy is not only the single most reliable, abundant, and non-polluting form of energy in the world, but it is also the safest. There are a growing number of environmentalists who have awakened to this fact and are trying to convince their colleagues of it, though the anti-nuclear organizations in many countries stubbornly resist learning anything about nuclear energy. They still carry significant weight with politicians, much more weight than the thousands of scientists who have developed nuclear reactors and understand their workings. Other clean sources of energy, like wind and solar, are too spread out and intermittent to carry the base load to keep electricity flowing 24/7, without being supplemented either by nuclear power or fossil fuels.

As long as fossil fuels are the biggest money-makers in the world and as long as a system based on profit continues to exist, nuclear energy will never be able to completely replace coal, oil, and gas. Furthermore there is no guarantee that nuclear reactors will continue to be safe under capitalism, since worker safety is the farthest thing from the capitalists' profit considerations, the reason that Chernobyl happened in the first place.

More importantly, fossil fuels are the primary cause of global warming, with its devastating effect on melting glaciers and increasingly frequent, violent, and deadly weather events. Climate change and strangling pollution will kill more and more workers around the world until we overthrow capitalism and replace it with a system based not on profit but on the needs of workers — communism. But we must also come to understand nuclear energy and not react with fear, since after the working class comes to power we will need to move to replace all fossil fuels.

Saguaro Rojo

Racist French Gov't Bars Students from Haiti

About 30 students from Haiti arrived here yesterday with transit visas for Benin (in W. Africa) but were detained in a detention zone. Most have family members in France. They obtained the visas based on traveling to Benin through an agreement between universities in Haiti and Benin. But the French Border Patrol barred them from continuing on their journey, saying their visas do not allow them to set foot on French soil.

When they were freed on a technicality, the racist government prosecution appealed. Their request for asylum has been classed as a "priority proceeding," and therefore could very well have them deported back to Haiti before the case is heard.

One student, Marie-Gerda Vertile, was born in Haiti in 1986. Her father has lived in France for 22 years. He charged that all his demands for a visa for his daughter were denied "without any justification."

This is just another example of the capitalist rulers' racist anti-immigrant policies, based on borders that all ruling classes establish to divide and oppress workers worldwide. That's why PLP's idea to "Smash All Borders" is the way forward for the international working class in order to unite workers globally on the road to a revolution that will carry out that slogan.

A Reader in France

Another Way Rulers Screwed Social Security

You recently showed how Johnson and all presidents since have used the Social Security's annual surpluses to pay for war-budget deficits. But there is more to this story.

These presidents gave the Social Security fund Government bonds as IOU's — but these were not the same bonds they sold to investors and banks. Obviously, these were long-term bonds — they wouldn't be paid back until the SS fund ran short. But they didn't pay the usual long-term interest rates, which over the years have averaged eight percent or more. The executives created a special deal for the SS robbery — a bond which paid about two percent interest.

If the SS fund had gotten the regular interest rate for long-term bonds, the fund would have doubled in size more than once since the original move by Johnson, and there wouldn't be any excuse for now talking about cutbacks in benefits.

Ancient Red



War, War and More War

continued from p. 2

in NYC and California; their increasing tuitions in city and state universities and racist destruction of public education; their attacks on healthcare affecting hospital workers and patients; their cuts in pensions and coming cuts in Social Security; and our fights against racist unemployment.

We can fight to win these battles, but the bosses will eventually reverse them. It is out of these struggles that we can win workers to understand that only communist revolution can end these murderous cuts and the bosses' imperialist wars once and for all. Such class struggles are truly "schools for communism" which can "graduate" into building PLP to lead the working class towards a worker-run society. ☪

NYC Rally Backs Rebellion in Haiti

continued from p. 4

The article pointed out, however, that even free public schools under capitalism will never fulfill the needs of workers' children. In the same issue a student writer from Haiti explained how cholera in Haiti was most probably brought into the country by MINUSTAH troops. She condemned the entire structure of NGOs (non-governmental organizations like the Red Cross or Doctors without Borders) in Haiti as "business humanitarianism" secured by imperialist armed force.

These small beginnings joining workers' forces in Haiti and the U.S. hold out hope that the international solidarity which the old communist movement once built can be rebuilt, on an even stronger political foundation. The only hope in places like Haiti is the revival of communism led by PLP. The same is true in the imperialist heartland, the U.S. Rebellious workers of all countries need one another to fight a global system. "The workers, united, will never be defeated!" "¡Oberos, unidos, jamás serán vencidos!" "Les ouvriers, unis, ne seront jamais conquis!" ☺



Protest genocide in Haiti

Britain: Miners Honor Heroes of 1984 Strike

KENT, ENGLAND, December 26 — "We struggled for what we achieved," proudly declared miner Peter Holden when the statue of the Waiting Miner was brought back to Betteshanger Colliery (a coal mine) from the Dover Sea Front. (Peter had participated in PLP's 1985 Washington, D.C. May Day march.) There had been a battle for some time to return the statue to the mine entrance from the tourist pleasure spot where it was put on display after the Thatcher Government closed the mine.

From 1984-1985 Britain's coal miners battled the Thatcher Government and its police force against pit closures. Oil had become the capitalist class's energy of choice.

The battle for jobs and dignity in the mid-1980s was a fight heard 'round the world. The miners struck across Britain — in England, Wales and Scotland. They and their families stood together in a model of workers' unity and fought standing battles with the cops almost daily. Supporters and families set up communal kitchens to feed the community three meals a day and workers in unions worldwide sent money and support.

In 1985 a number of coal miners from Kent (in Southeastern England) and their families joined with PL at our May Day March in Washington, D.C. Miners from Britain also joined in the PL Summer Projects to help organize farmworkers in California's San Joaquin Valley in 1985 and 1986.

Miners, those who labor beneath the earth worldwide, have a very strong working-class culture. They have a long history of standing together to fight the oppressive

practices of capitalism and imperialism. During apartheid in South Africa, if a coal miner from Britain went to work in a South African mine, he would be refused re-entry into his British union because his job as a pit boss in South Africa meant directing African laborers who were treated terribly and paid cheaply.

The great 1984-85 coal miners' strike in Britain was an example of 800 years of miners' struggles against their bosses. In Britain, the miners' fight against the kings of the realm and their minions has been written about since the 13th century.

Peter told a recent miners' festival held at Betteshanger, "I am honored and proud to have been a Kent miner. The Waiting Miner statue is not just a statue, it is an icon — a monument that, in my opinion, represents the finest working-class people in the world. It represents all the struggles and hardships the miners and their families had to go through over the years. The miners were given nothing. They had to fight and struggle for everything they achieved. Standing shoulder to shoulder they achieved better standards, wages, working conditions (health and safety) and standing together formed a comradeship that was impregnable."

Peter concluded: "They were the front line in getting better conditions for the whole working class and should never be forgotten."

CHALLENGE hails the struggles of workers wherever they fight oppression and we support the wonderful dignified words of our brother. ☺

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

Prisoners unite to demand wages

NYT, 12/13 — Inmates in at least seven Georgia prisons have used contraband cellphones to coordinate a nonviolent strike this weekend, saying they want better living conditions and to be paid for work they do in the prisons.

Inmates said they would not perform chores, work for the corrections Department's industrial arm or shop at prison commissaries until a list of demands are addressed, including compensation for their work... "We have to come together and set aside all differences, whites, blacks, those of us that are affiliated in gangs."

Imperialists can't cut war spending

NYT editorial, 12/12 — Here is a basic truth about the deficit: In the long run, it cannot be fixed, without reining in spending on Medicare and Medicaid.

Food prices up: system robs poor

NYT, 12/29 — Food prices globally are rising to dangerous levels....High prices deprive the poor, who already spend as much as half of their income on food. The market still clears, but at a riot-inducing high price...The price of oil increases transport costs for food. It also encourages politicians to divert grains into biofuels, which become competitive when oil hits \$60 a barrel.

The average oil price in 2011 is forecast at \$84, according to a Reuters poll. The U.S., which supplies two-thirds of the world's corn exports, diverted huge amounts into biofuel in the run-up to the 2008 crisis, causing 70 percent of the rise in corn prices, according to the International Monetary Fund. That distortion was passed straight onto the world's poor.

Food riots in 2011 are possible.

Education Leads to low-wage jobs

NYT, 12/15 — To the Editor: Your editorial hints

at the real elephant in the room for today's college-educated young people: it's not being unemployed, but being locked into working at low-wage jobs.

As a college professor, I vividly see this jobs/education mismatch when I run into former students still waiting tables at local restaurants years after getting their B.A. or master's degrees.

How can we tell young people that are getting more education is the key to financial success amid rapidly shrinking chances of actually finding a middle-class job?

Do we really have a "new knowledge economy" when three of the fastest growing United States occupations — home health aide, warehouse clerk and medical assistant — pay on average less than \$14 an hour?

Who's a top teacher? Ask students

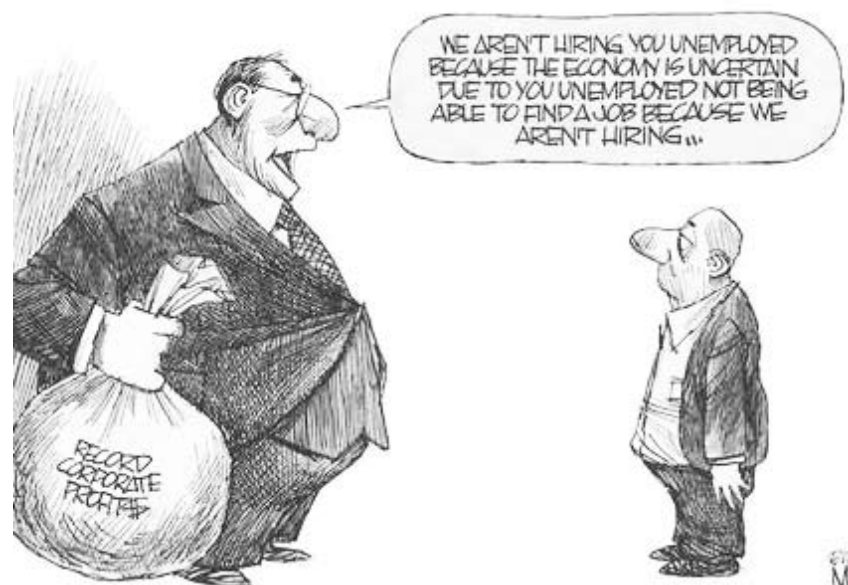
NYT, 12/21 — How useful are the views of public school students about their teachers?

Quite useful, according to preliminary results released on Friday....Teachers whose students described them as skillful...are often the same teachers whose students learn the most in the course of a year.

Budget feeds wars, not workers

NYT, 12/26 — We face wrenching budget cutting in the years ahead, but there's one huge area of government spending that Democrats and Republicans alike have so far treated as sacrosanct.

It's the military/security world... a few facts: [1] the United States spends nearly as much on military power as every other country in the world combined...we spend more than six times as much as the country with the next highest budget, China. [2] the United States maintains troops at more than 560 bases and other sites abroad... [3] the U.S. will spend more on the war in Afghanistan this year... President Obama, a Democrat who symbolized



new directions, requested about 6 percent more for the military this year than at the peak of the Bush administration.

...For the cost of one American soldier in Afghanistan for one year, you could build about 20 schools.

Brits rebel, but need a red plan

NYT, 12/10 — ...Violence across [London's] center continued into the night, with demonstrators trying to smash their way into the Treasury building...with makeshift rams made from steel crowd barriers, shouting "We want our money back!" The protesters set small fires and clashed with riot police officers and mounted units that formed cordons outside government buildings. BBC reporters at the scene wore helmets as the rioters threw shattered blocks of steel-reinforced concrete.

Scotland Yard said at mid-evening that at least 12 police officers were injured....Rioters threw lighted flares and fireworks at the police...At least 43 were arrested....

Recent weeks have seen other occasions when street protests have spilled over into violence, but nothing on the scale of Thursday's unrest...The street clashes on Thursday raised concerns that the protests could be the template for even wider disturbances in the future, as the spending cuts and expected job losses begin to bite.

2010 Marked International Workers' Unity Against World's Bosses



Demonstration in Marseilles. The banner reads "Jobs, Retirement, Solidarity Throughout Europe."



PLP: Multiracial Solidarity in the Fight for Communism

The year 2010 was marked by numerous outbreaks of class struggle around the world. Workers and youth fought back against the oppressive conditions enforced by the bosses as they tried to deal with an ever-increasing crisis in the capitalist system.

Fight-backs

Around the world, strikes, occupations, rebellions and fight-backs occurred among:

- Workers across industries and students in Greece and France for months
- Farm workers in Italy
- Garment workers in Bangladesh
- General strikers in Algeria
- Tobacco workers in Turkey
- Electricians in Mexico
- Migrant workers in Malaysia
- College students from Oxford to Los Angeles who rebelled against budget cuts and organized strikes against tuition hikes
- Workers in Washington, D.C. who occupied government land to demand affordable housing;
- Parents in Chicago who occupied an elementary school field house to demand quality education for their children in their neighborhood.
- Anti-racists in Germany and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, who fought against neo-Nazis
- Residents in Mexico City who protested utility company Conagua's destructive plans for their flooded neighborhood.

Wherever PLP could, we supported, participated in and led these struggles.

Attacks by the Ruling Class

While workers were fighting back, the ruling class showed blatantly this year that they cannot and will not meet the needs of the working class. The capitalist system is based on bosses making profit off the labor of workers.

The bosses' priority is profit. They don't profit from providing safe working conditions for the workers who create that surplus. The Mining disasters in Chile and West Virginia are perfect ex-

amples of this. In the Gulf of Mexico, the BP oil spill demonstrated how the drive for profits puts the health of all workers and the environment in serious danger.

But the most disgusting example of the bosses' disregard for human life was the earthquake in Haiti. Like Hurricane Katrina before it, this natural disaster showed how the racism inherent in the system destroys lives. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, suffering centuries of imperialism. While the luxury hotels for tourists were built to withstand natural disasters, workers in Haiti live in the poorest possible conditions.

Imperialist bosses pay workers in their factories as little as 12 cents an hour. U.S. and European bosses are using the disaster as an excuse to send troops into Haiti. Only 1% of the billions sent actually aided the victims. NGOs, claiming to want to help, are part of this corruption, while prostitution increases. Poor sanitary conditions and healthcare have led to an outbreak of cholera.

Despite these capitalist failures, U.S. bosses have spent the year trying to deceive workers about what a good job they are doing. Nobel-Peace-prize winner Obama and his cohorts have only expanded the wars in the Middle East and are threatening new fronts in Iran, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and Korea.

As the bosses touted "recovery," fascism was on the rise. With record-high unemployment and budget cuts in education, transit, and health care, many workers faced and understood this class war. The Tea Party movement was used this year to try to win workers to participate in the electoral process. The media used the attempted bombing of Times Square and the so-called Russian spy ring to excuse the fascist tactics of Homeland Security.

A section of the working class was used as scapegoats: deportations rose this year to nearly 390,000; Arizona's racist immigrant law is expected to spread to at least five other states. The debate over "immigration reform" is a cover for the bosses' need to keep immigrant workers living in terror and working for the lowest possible wages.

As U.S. rulers are attacking Latino immigrants, France is attacking mostly North and Sub-Saharan Africans. The undocumented workers in Europe had a unified fight-back against the bosses, asking to be "legalized." But we know our future holds more wars and more murders of the working class. We must sharpen the struggle against capitalism's blood-sucking leeches.

PLP was inspired this year by the heroic battles of workers around the world against the racist, oppressive capitalist system. Comrades supported daycare workers in Palestine and nursing home workers in Connecticut as they balanced their struggle against the bosses with the needs of those in their care.

Party youth walked out of school in New York and New Jersey to protest cuts to education and transit. Members and friends traveled to Haiti to provide medical care as well as political support to our brothers and sisters in the earthquake-devastated country. Each of these struggles represents a step forward for the organization.

This year we celebrated these victories in a Summer Project and convention in New York City, attended by comrades and friends from around the world. The convention showed the growth of our Party as we heard about the many struggles our members are fighting in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the U.S.

The convention allowed us to see the growth and strength of the Progressive Labor Party in the current era of capitalist crisis. We face an uphill battle against the forces of the rulers, but we face that battle with multi-racial, international unity. We know that the capitalist system is deadly to us, and we must destroy it to create a communist world where the needs of the workers drive the decisions of society. At the convention this sentiment echoed throughout the assembly room as comrades sang the Internationale in our many languages and roared in unison: "Fight for communism, power to the workers!" ✪



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