

# CHALLENGE



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**Fighting Wall Street is Good, But**

# Capitalism Must Be Destroyed



**NEW YORK CITY, October 26** — Occupied Wall Street (OWS) has spread to more than 20 U.S. cities, from Philadelphia and Dallas to Seattle and Los Angeles. It adds a significant marker to the growing list of places where the working class is fighting back against the horrors of capitalism. In an era commonly defined by the lack of militant class struggle, recent events in the U.S., Greece, Egypt, Spain, England, Syria, Israel/Palestine and Pakistan are to be celebrated.

But as we celebrate we should be clear: The ideas behind these struggles are overwhelmingly reformist. Most of the participants are fighting to maintain capitalism in one form or another, with disastrous results for the workers in these places. (See page 7 for an update on the situation in Egypt and how the promise of the uprising there has turned into a nightmare for workers.) Without communist ideas in the lead, the battles, won or lost, will pave the road back to capitalist oppression.

The ruling class continues to provide opportunities for us to bring communist ideas to the forefront. In New York, the ruling class pulled back the mask of "democracy" yesterday when more than 700 OWS protestors were arrested on the Brooklyn Bridge. After having been lured onto the bridge by the cops, the protestors were surrounded with netting and taken away on city buses, over the protests of union drivers.

More than two weeks in, OWS has survived nearly a thousand arrests.



KKKops trap and arrest protesters.

It has captured the imagination of both workers and students. Watching more than a hundred transit workers march into Zuccotti Park near Wall Street was inspiring. The action exposed the systemic inequality of capitalism.

Still, we must keep two things in mind. First, within the antagonistic struggle against capitalism, the communist alternative will stand out and provide a space for us to build the Party and the communist world we envision. Second, we need to immerse ourselves with the masses and inject communist and revolutionary ideas inside reform struggles. PL'ers everywhere should seize this moment.

### Police Action Backfires

The NYPD has been trapping and arresting hundreds at a time in order to identify as many dissenters as they can. The KKKops meant to intimidate the protestors, but the police action may have backfired. Most of the youth seem even angrier and more committed to build their movement. Today, protestors were back at Zuccotti Park in full force.

There are many good things about the ongoing OWS struggle. It includes a growing number of young people, workers (employed and unemployed) and students. For many, this is their first taste of fighting back. They show some understanding of why the ruling class needs racism, sexism and wars for oil. Many of these protestors will be faced with a future draft and a decision either to fight in these wars or to resist them. Some are discussing the role of imperialism. The most prevalent chant is "We are the 99%," making clear the opposition between the wealthiest 1% and the rest of us.

But there are a number of critical weaknesses that reflect OWS's lack of communist leadership. The movement lacks black and Latino participation. Amid the push for "fairness," many fail to understand that capitalism cannot possibly be fair. Inequality is essential to the bosses' system.

### Racism Fundamental to Capitalism

The rule of the capitalist class rests firmly on a foundation of racism. All around the world, the bosses make super-profits from the exploitation of sections of the working class, usually defined by race, ethnicity or religion. In the U.S. this primarily means black and Latino workers. The bosses also rely on racism to divide workers and weaken class struggle. Although the OWS movement claims to be a revolution, it has yet to enlist the most oppressed and exploited sections of the working class. Party members have been raising these and other communist ideas at the OWS protests.

There is a long way to go. A recently released statement from the protest organizers says nothing about capitalism or imperialism. The document urges workers to exercise your right to peaceably assemble; occupy public space; create a process to address the problems we face, and generate solutions accessible to everyone. This is not a political strategy to end the suffering of the world's working class.

PL'ers and friends must inject communist ideas into OWS and explain how the police serve the rulers under capitalism. We must show the absolute need to fight to destroy the profit system and to produce for workers' needs, instead. In the heat of struggle, these ideas will move us one day closer to revolution.

THE WORKING CLASS HAS A WORLD TO WIN! ✪



# Rulers Need GI Boots on Oil Fields Obama's Drones Will Spark Wider Wars

As they celebrated last week's drone strike that killed al Qaeda big shot Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen, Obama & Co. continued to lie about the dangers workers face from this escalating campaign. U.S. bosses claim that "surgical" drone strikes, using unpiloted aircraft, avoid civilians. They say that drones offer a low-cost, politically low-risk means of prosecuting their "war on terror" without engaging U.S. troops. Finally, White House hypocrites preach that they apply the strictest "moral" and "legal" standards in deploying the drones.

But history tells us that wars cannot be won by remote control. The drones represent an early stage of a bloody, high-risk strategy that could soon have "allied" U.S. and Pakistani armies shooting at each other. They cannot possibly replace the ground troops the U.S. bosses will need in their war to control the areas with huge reserves of oil and natural gas and the pipelines that transport them.

(It's for this reason that the U.S. "withdrawal" from Iraq moves at a snail's pace; there are 30 U.S. bases that need to be secured there.)

Moreover, the drones won't help the hundreds of thousands of workers in Pakistan on strike against poverty pay, unpaid wages and brutal working conditions (see CHALLENGE, 10/5). They won't benefit those who suffer from the capitalists' austerity policies across Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. And they certainly won't relieve the racist unemployment, home foreclosures and worsening healthcare faced by tens of millions of U.S. workers. The trillions spent on war only exacerbate these problems for workers everywhere.

In fact, the Pentagon uses drones both to pinpoint high-level targets and to spread terror through indiscriminate slaughter. John Brennan, Obama's top advisor on terrorism, finds his boss's robot assassins faultless: "There hasn't been a single collateral death because of the exceptional proficiency [and] precision...that we've been able to develop" (Los Angeles Times, 6/29/11).

Brennan lied. Two years earlier, after Obama latched onto the drones as a regional cure-all for U.S. imperialism, insider Daniel Byman (a Brookings fellow and former analyst for the CIA and Congress) exposed their probable rate of civilian murders, warning of a backlash:

*U.S. drone activity in Pakistan has killed dozens of lower-ranking and at least 10 mid- and high-ranking leaders from al Qaeda and the Taliban. Critics correctly find many problems with this program, most of all the number of civilian casualties the strikes have incurred. Sourcing on civilian deaths is weak and the numbers are often exaggerated, but more than 600 civilians are likely to have died from the attacks [as of two years ago]. That number suggests that for every militant killed, 10 or so civilians also died....U.S. strikes that take a civilian toll are a further blow to its legitimacy — and to U.S. efforts to build goodwill there (Foreign Policy, 7/14/09).*

Of the untold hundreds of innocents killed so far by drones, nearly half are children, according to a recent study by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism. Contrary to plan, these attacks actually help to build jihadist groups by turning slain leaders into martyrs and bereaved relatives of civilians into sworn U.S. enemies.

## The Next 9/11 — and the Rockefeller Wing's Planned Counterattack

If and when drone-fired hatred fuels a terror attack in the U.S., its rulers are cynically seeking to use it to expand the Afghanistan war into Pakistan. In August, their leading foreign policy think tank, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), issued "Contingency Planning Memorandum No. 13: A Pakistan-Based Terrorist Attack on the U.S. Homeland." Acknowledging the "generous support" of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, it read in part:

*Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is the most likely Pakistani outfit to attempt a unilateral strike against the United States or to cooperate with al-Qaeda. The TTP has threatened attacks against the U.S. homeland, considers itself at war with Pakistan, has been a regular target for U.S. drones, and already attempted one attack against the United States when it trained and deployed Faizal Shahzad to trigger a car bomb in Times Square in 2010....An operation involving conventional explosives is most likely. The casualty count likely would be among the largest determining factors*

### 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.

**GENERAL, YOUR TANK IS A POWERFUL VEHICLE**  
It smashes down forests and crushes a hundred men.

But it has one defect:  
It needs a driver.

**General, your bomber is powerful.**

It flies faster than a storm and carries more than an elephant.

But it has one defect:  
It needs a mechanic.

**General, man is very useful.**

He can fly and he can kill.

But he has one defect:  
He can think.

— from "A German War Primer" by Bertolt Brecht

*in terms of how Washington responds, and it is difficult as well as unrealistic to affix a precise number. This contingency presumes an attack claiming at least fifty people and as many as five hundred, assessing possible responses along this range.*

On September 22, departing Joint Chiefs of Staff boss Mike Mullen significantly upped the likelihood of U.S. action against Pakistan by telling Congress that the terrorist Haqqani Network "has long enjoyed the support and protection of the Pakistani government and is, in many ways, a strategic arm of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency."

Four days later, speaking on National Public Radio, CFR mouthpiece Daniel Markey interpreted Mullen's remarks as a green light for the Pentagon death machine:

*You could see conventional forces in Afghanistan moved up to the Pakistan border to support cross-border attacks that would probably start out small but could expand. And you could see a variety of other combined efforts that could even include a more extensive bombing campaign that went beyond the use of drones.*

## Capitalists' Laws Serve Their Own Class; Communist Revolution Needed for Pro-Worker Rules

The farcical but widely accepted concept of capitalist "justice under law" aids the war-maker Obama, who has enlisted his alma mater: Harvard Law School (HLS). Just before Awlaki's demise by drone, John Brennan advised an HLS forum (AP, 9/16/11), "We reserve the right to take unilateral action if or when other governments are unwilling or unable to take the necessary actions themselves...."

Just after the al-Awlaki killing, HLS Professor Jack Goldsmith reminded New York Times readers (9/30/11), "In a lawsuit brought last year that sought to prevent the government from targeting Mr. Awlaki, a federal judge ruled that in wartime the Constitution left it to the president and Congress, not the courts, to decide military targeting issues."

In other words, laws are what the bosses say they are. In any time or place, the ruling class, in its own interests, determines what is "legal" and what is not. Slavery enjoyed the U.S. Constitution's legal blessing for 78 years. The U.S. bosses' legal scholars today find drone attacks and full-scale, undeclared, unilateral invasions perfectly legitimate.

The working class worldwide suffers from U.S. imperialism's march to wider wars. Our class's answer remains to intensify class struggle against these murderous rulers and their poisonous profit system. We can see this happening in Pakistan's mass strikes, and in workers' mass protests in Greece, France, and Italy. We see renewed struggle beginning to emerge in the U.S., with the fight-

**continued on page 3**

## 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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# Professors Back United, Multi-Racial Boathouse Strikers



**NEW YORK CITY, Sept 10** — "The PSC is here to say, we support you all the way!" These words echoed across the eastern edge of Central Park when a group of professors from the professional Staff Congress (PSC), a union of CUNY professors and staff came to support them. They have an increasing history of supporting striking workers all over the region. They proclaimed their solidarity with the strikers of the Loeb Boathouse Restaurant. The workers walked off the job more than a month ago because managers were sexually harassing women workers, stealing their tips and, most recently, firing 30 workers as retribution for attempts at unionization.

The supporters were there to show that the divisions — by job title, by country of birth, by "race," by gender, etc. — that capitalism imposes on us can be smashed. Tearing down these divisions is an essential prerequisite for the working class to take power from the bosses and so every opportunity to chip away at the barriers should be seized. We saw a small glimpse of the future, when workers will be united under communist leadership to destroy capitalism and its ideas.

Capitalism teaches us that mental and manual labor are different and that this division makes solidarity between workers impossible. This is capitalist nonsense and the presence of professors in support of waiters and dishwashers proves it! No matter the nature of the work, capitalism exploits it for profit.

Multi-racial unity was on display to oppose the division of "race" and racism that capitalism shoves down our throats. The striking workers are primarily immigrants from many countries, including Mexico, Ecuador and Albania. This racist capitalist system means that these workers are subjected to super-exploitation. They had wages and tips stolen, were subjected to harassment and sexual abuse and generally treated poorly by the boss.

But supporting them on the picket line were mainly white workers from the U.S. who saw that, as workers, their fight was the same, regardless of their "race" or where they were born. Once again, a communist future could be glimpsed, where borders are smashed and

workers are united in creating and running a new society.

A picture of what a society not based on the super-exploitation of women might look like could also be seen. Women were there, shouting the loudest and giving leadership to the strike. Some of these women had been subject to sexual harassment by managers at the Boathouse and this issue was a major factor in the decision to strike for both the female and male workers.

While rank-and-file workers stood united and proud, NYC's union hacks showed they dance only to the bosses' tune. The sellout Central Labor Council (CLC) did nothing to mobilize the thousands of union workers who were marching in the New York Labor Day Parade (which ended less than half a mile from the restaurant) to go to the Boathouse to give their support. Nearly every union leader at the march followed the lead of the CLC and abandoned the workers.

Despite this sellout by labor hacks and the presence of scabs, the strikers made a non-stop cacophony with drums and shouting, enough so the restaurant did very little business during the strike. On September 21st the strikers won an important victory when the owner, Dean Poll, agreed to a union contract that restored the fired workers and promised sick days, vacation, and health care. In a time of relentless attacks against the working class, this is notable.

Let us not be fooled, however. Capitalists only give in to our demands when we force them and even then we get crumbs. Yes, the strike ended in victory, but Dean Poll continues to make profit from the labor of the restaurant workers! And Poll, like all bosses, will constantly look for ways to take back what we've won.

This is the best-case scenario for the working class under capitalism, but it's not the best we can do! Our ultimate liberation from Dean Poll and the capitalist system he embodies requires that we overcome the false barriers of union hacks, job title, "race", gender, and "nationality." As we say, the workers united will never be defeated.☺

# March vs. Racist Columbia U. Job Scam

**NEW YORK CITY, October 22** — Members of a church in Harlem, community residents and students again marched on the Columbia University's fake jobs center. For an hour, we kept up militant chants against racist unemployment and Columbia's collusion with bankers and war-makers. Like other prestigious universities, Columbia supports the research the ruling class relies on to arm its war machine, directs its crisis-ridden banking system and educates young workers in the destructive ideas of capitalism. Columbia's expansion of its programs has also meant that they have taken over massive portions of the surrounding neighborhoods, leaving many workers without homes or jobs.

Next we marched to the gates of the university, where we held another spirited picket. Our plan was to proceed across the campus to the mansion of President Bollinger. A line of campus security tried to stop us, saying we couldn't walk with our "dangerous" posters. Several militant marchers refused to give in, and finally they let us in. We loudly chanted our way through. We then heard speeches in front of the obscenely ornate Bollinger residence, pointing out how students and workers are suffering high unemployment and how the university has displaced thousands of local residents in its history and mistreated its employees.

Our movement has become focused on building from the ground up, rather than relying on politicians or media. We have tied our struggle to an analysis of the crisis of capitalism. At least 10 church members who had never been involved in protests before participated in some way. They either leafleted beforehand, demonstrated or cooked for the marchers for our picnic afterwards. However, our numbers are still much too small. Workers need to overcome their cynicism about fighting back. Students need to realize their salvation lies in uniting with workers, on campus and in the community. We will continue to fight and more are sure to join us.

The victory of the Central Park Boathouse strikers and the large anti-Wall Street actions are evidence of growing working-class anger against the system. Our task is to make sure that protestors have a clear understanding that all our problems stem from capitalism and cannot be solved unless we chuck it completely and build a communist world.☺



## Drones Spark Wider Wars

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backs by West Coast longshoremen, New York City hospital workers and anti-Wall Street demonstrators in cities across the country.

The needed and essential ingredient in these struggles is to divert them from the dead-end impossibility of reforming capitalism and into schools for communist-led revolution. We must win workers and youth to see that only a worker-run society that destroys the bosses and their profit system can put an end to their atrocities. The greater good of the working class will then be the ultimate law.☺



# One-day Actions, Reforms Won't Cut It

## Teacher Strike Sweeps France



Teachers demonstration in Nantes.

**PARIS, September 27** — Today, over 350,000 teachers struck and 165,000 demonstrated across France to fight mass layoffs, overcrowded classes and potential increases in working hours. Today's actions were notable because public and parochial school teachers were acting together for the first time. Historically, the two groups have been opposed. (Eighty percent of pupils attend public schools and 20% go to private schools, 95% of which are Catholic.)

The force driving this unity, at least temporarily, is the government policy of replacing only one of every two retiring teachers. Education Minister Luc Chatel confirmed a government cut of 14,000 teaching jobs next year, following the 80,000 jobs already axed since 2007.

Over half the 322,000 public primary school teachers and almost half the 394,000 public secondary school teachers struck. The walkout was "strong" in the Catholic schools in western France, the bastion of parochial education. Nearly one-third of the private school teachers struck, entirely

### Bosses' Racism Infects French Schools

"Races" and ethnic groups have no legal existence in France. "Race-based" statistics and studies on discrimination and integration are officially forbidden. But this official color-blindness belies the fact that racism exists in France and in French schools.

On May 7, an elementary school in Nancy, in the French "rust belt," was spray-painted with racist and anti-Semitic graffiti. The vandals unsuccessfully tried to burn down the school.

According to Le Monde newspaper (August 17), a government report indicates that racist, anti-Semitic and anti-foreigner insults and acts against both pupils and teachers are becoming commonplace in French schools. It says that racial discrimination is most obvious in post-high school orientation and when students try to get a job internship. Such internships are part of the junior and senior high school program.

The report also says racist discrimination leads to the marginalization of some students who quickly become dropouts.

closing down some schools, "an unheard-of event."

Today, 165,000 teachers demonstrated, some 45,000 marching here in the capital. But Guillaume, a high school math teacher, declared, "I don't have any illusions. This is a big demonstration, and that is good for morale, but the balance of forces isn't in our favor yet."

But the major weakness of the teachers' movement is its aim, to patch up the school system while leaving capitalism untouched, continually building up what the profit system tears down. How much better to build a movement to destroy capitalism and create a system truly serving the working class!

"It's intolerable for primary classes to be overcrowded," said high school teacher Philippe Hivernet, who teaches in Paris's eastern suburbs. "The educational system is being destroyed and struggling pupils are the main ones to suffer."

"Primary school classes with 32 or 33 pupils make good working conditions impossible. Education is being dehumanized," said primary school teacher Giselle Skriabil.

In France there are 6.1 teachers per 100 students, compared to many other European countries with eight or more per 100.

"The problem is that education is not a service. We are supposed to be profitable, whereas you can't put a figure on children's education," said retired primary school teacher Annie Gérard.

Polls show esteem for the nation's school system plummeting due to government policies. Teachers felt encouraged to strike and demonstrate because they knew they'd get popular backing.

Moreover, all of the opposition parties, from the center to the "left" to the ecologists, have been using the ailing school system as a pre-campaign theme, diverting workers towards the run-up to next year's presidential elections.

But it would be a serious mistake to believe these politicians' sugar-coated phrases. All are dedicated to maintaining and protecting capitalism. As Lenin wrote, "People have always been the foolish victims of deception and self-deception in politics, and they always will be until they have learned to seek out the interests of some class or other behind all moral, religious, political and social phrases, declarations and promises."

Rank-and-file pressure forced all union leaders to back the protests. But Hugo, a 26-year-old student, warned, "We mustn't limit ourselves to a one-day strike. For retirement pensions, we blocked the refineries and that put on the pressure....We shouldn't wait for the trade unions to take the initiative, everybody should mobilize in every economic sector."

"Protesting is good, but fighting back is a whole lot better," said Alain Bonhomme, the father of a high school student.

Other teacher grievances include, an increase in the number of different jobs teachers are supposed to perform; the lack of recognition; closure of kindergarten to children under two; the impossibility of helping the pupils who face the most difficulties; and the savaging of teacher training. In addition, the system fosters racism (see box on left).

It's also becoming difficult to recruit teachers. Last year, 1,000 teaching jobs remained unfilled because not enough candidates passed the competitive exam. Some universities are closing their teacher-training courses due to a lack of demand.

### France: Bosses Flee Hostage Seizure; Workers Reject Layoff Bribe

**HAM, FRANCE, September 21** — At 2:00 a.m. on September 17, the four Constellium executives held by angry metalworkers escaped from the plant. The workers are fighting mass layoffs and eventual closing of the facility (see CHALLENGE, 9/5).

A high-ranking gendarme came to the factory gate and talked to the workers to divert their attention. Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the plant, a team of gendarmes cut through the metal fencing and helped the bosses escape by squeezing through the hole in the fence and racing down the railroad tracks in the middle of the night.

The local union leader said the workers are "nauseated by management's attitude." He added that "There was no dialogue. We didn't obtain any concrete improvement."

On the evening of September 16, a representative of the central government attempted to obtain the liberation of the bosses in exchange for the promise of negotiations, to be held three days later at a hotel 20 miles away. The workers rejected the offer as a stalling maneuver.

"Now we know that we would never have seen them at that...meeting," the union leader commented. Today, the workers voted against a company offer of a 15,000-euro bonus (US \$21,000) for each laid-off worker.

The workers want a commitment to keep the factory open. The plant makes aluminum structures and windows. Constellium plans to lay off 127 of the 207 permanent workers. Forty temporary workers will also lose their jobs. The subcontractors that do work for the Ham plant are expected to lay off 170 of their workers.

The workers' courageous and militant action to defend their jobs merits praise. But they need to set their sights higher. Instead of accepting the continued rule of their heartless bosses, they should organize for the long-term goal of communist revolution. ☸

The French government, however, is considering increasing class hours. Right-wing think-tanks are pushing a doubling of working and class hours.

French president Nicolas Sarkozy attempted to split the working class by pitting factory workers against the teachers. "My duty as head of state is to think first of the factory workers, white collar workers and executives who are facing international competition and who need the support of the government, rather than to think of those who do a hard job but whose status as civil servants protects them [against unemployment]," Sarkozy said today.

But when private sector workers strike for higher wages, the government is quick to point out that private sector wages are generally higher than in the public sector. The majority of workers here see through the bosses' effort to divide and rule. Private and public sector workers usually support one another's struggles.

Sarkozy's words betrayed the rulers' real fear. Workers and teachers, united and led by a communist party could overthrow the capitalists and their government and create an educational system that prepares all children to make a useful contribution to a communist society. Then, the watchword will be: "To each according to need, from each according to commitment." ☸



## Israel: Rail Strikers Fight for Jobs, Defy 'Illegal' Label

**TEL AVIV, September 25** — The Israel Railways union went on a partial strike in response to the management's plan to privatize rolling stock maintenance to an outside company. While the management pretends that this outsourcing will not harm the current workers' jobs, in reality this will open the way for a wider privatization of rail services under the Israeli regime, causing job loss and pay cuts. The rail workers are fighting for their jobs, as well for the job conditions and pay of future workers hired by Israel Railways.

The Israeli "labor" court has decreed the strike "illegal" on the management's request, but the workers are fighting on despite the anti-worker decree. On September 25th, the workers shut down the opening of a new rail line in Rishon Le'Zion, defying the court's order and showing management that they will not give up their jobs to make profits for whatever sub-contractor the management will choose to privatize transit services.

This struggle receives very negative coverage in the Israeli media, with the rail workers shown as "criminals" and "terrorists" because they dared to strike and disrupt train traffic for a few days in defense of their jobs.

This is why international solidarity is important. Give these transit workers a hand in face of management plots and court and media onslaught!

Please sign this petition in support of this strike:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/israel-rail/>

In addition, please send protest letters to the following addresses:

Israel Railways Customer Service, pni-yot@rail.co.il or by regular mail to Israel Railways – Customer Service Department, Tel Aviv Station, Savidor Central, POB 18085, Zipcode 61180.

Yisrael Katz, Israeli Minister of Transportation, yiskatz@knesset.gov.il

# Unity Rally Hits Racist CUNY Bosses' 2-Tier System

**NEW YORK CITY, September 26** — "Part-time, Full-time Faculty Unite, Same Struggle, Same Fight!" More than 500 City University of New York (CUNY) professors and students picketed outside the Board of Trustees meeting to protest the Board's racist vote to take away health care for adjuncts (part-time professors) by next year.

CUNY is a working-class university system. Its make-up is mostly Latino, black, and immigrant workers and students. This cutback would affect over 10,200 people across the CUNY system.

The Professional Staff Congress (PSC), the union representing CUNY faculty and staff, called the protest. A delegation of 70 or so workers and students also went inside to present a petition signed by thousands calling on CUNY to provide adequate funding for adjunct professor health insurance.

This large and spirited rally was an inspiring demonstration of unity between full-time and part-time professors, and a growing realization that the two-tier system of labor at CUNY is a threat to all workers. Adjunct health insurance was won in 1986, and like all reforms, it is now being taken back.

The reliance on 11,450 adjunct workers, who now teach more than half the classes, has increased dramatically in recent years. These workers are the lowest-paid with the least job security. They receive an inferior health insurance plan compared to full-time workers. The two-tier system was set up to fail, as only 13% of adjuncts receive health insurance to begin with. The proposed cut will make healthcare even more unattainable.

CUNY has refused to boost its contribution to the PSC Welfare Fund, which pays for adjunct health insurance. Though the cost of insurance has increased 400% of its cost in 2002, very few workers are receiving healthcare.

PLP professors and students came to the rally with friends from campuses all over the city. Students distributed 50 CHALLENGEs and 300 fliers entitled "Fight for Adjunct Health Insurance, Eliminate the Disease of Capitalism." A professor read the headline and said, "Yes, capitalism really is a disease that needs to be eliminated."

Many friends at CUNY are realizing the futility of reforms and agree that capitalism will not provide



the basis for real education. "The public university system is broken," said one professor from Hostos Community College, "and we can no longer believe in the false promises of the CUNY trustees or the system as a whole."

More CUNY workers and students are witnessing the contagion of capitalist crisis and crippling austerity regimes imposed on workers worldwide, causing tremendous misery. Such discussions must be at the forefront in our classrooms in conjunction with the building of worker/student solidarity inside the university and the surrounding communities.

CUNY Chancellor Goldstein announced at the trustee meeting that he would bring up funding from NY State to save adjunct healthcare. PSC leadership saw this as a victory. But all unions serve to make compromises with these bosses, and continue to provide cheap labor. PLP must continue organizing at CUNY to fight for more than measly scraps the bosses toss at workers.

Clearly, this does not signal a victory but a chance to discuss how capitalism thrives off inadequate health care, the exploitation of part-time professors, and job insecurity — what Marx called the reserve army of labor that is integral to capitalism. As our flyer said: "The longer capitalism survives, the more people will suffer from joblessness, homelessness, hunger, and low wages, and the more countless thousands will die or be maimed in imperialist wars."

As professors and students we should resolve to tell those in our classes and on our campuses the truth: that capitalism needs to be treated like smallpox or malaria, a disease we need to eradicate. Our homework should be to organize for an egalitarian society — communism — that makes capitalism a relic of the past. Progressive Labor Party is working toward that goal. Please join us. ☺

## Long-term Communist Base-Building Pays Off in Anti-Firing Battle

**PHILADELPHIA, October 3** — The continuing fight against cutbacks and firings at a large teaching hospital shows how long-term communist basebuilding can stretch and change the limits in our battles. On the surface, the odds in this fight seem stacked against us. The nurses, largely white, are non-union and handicapped by divisive ideas like elitism and professionalism. The workers in the union, who are largely black, are themselves split into two groups: those who work directly for the hospital and those who work for two notoriously exploitive contractors. There is also longstanding tension between the nurses and the union members based on racism and nationalism.

But that's just one side of the equation. On the other side are the many years of communist basebuilding by Progressive Labor Party at the hospital, the countless conversations about the need to overthrow capitalism with communist revolution and the need to join PL. Many, many friendships have been built.

Hundred of Challenge-Desafios have been circulated through networks and hand-to-hand distribution. Home visits and social activities helped non-union nurses and unionized blue-collar work-

ers overcome their divisions with multi-racial unity. Fights big and small, even if they weren't successful, helped forge significant solidarity.

As a result, workers were determined and enthusiastic in the meetings after the hospital bosses fired nurse activist Wesley on trumped-up charges of 'diverting narcotics' (see 10/5 Challenge-Desafio). A defense fund is being organized. Union members volunteered to fight to get their union to support Wesley. Workers also volunteered to arrange for Wesley and other fired workers to speak at their churches. A flyer was written to reach out to unions, churches and neighborhood organizations. We also made plans to continue the fight within the hospital against the firings and patient care cutbacks.

The firings are painful and difficult, and the elimination of nursing assistants deadly for patients. It can be difficult to keep our focus when time must also be spent on figuring out how Wesley is going to survive and how the lawyer is going to be paid. Nonetheless, we are struggling to make the growth of PL and Challenge-Desafio our primary goal and central to all our activities.

The confidence that we can solve these problems comes from our confidence in our base. After decades of communist basebuilding, workers in our base are stepping forward to play significant roles in the current fight. The obligation of PL members in this struggle is to intensify the struggle for these workers to join PL and distribute Challenge-Desafio.

The Party's newspaper is in everyone's hands at our meetings. We are working on guaranteeing and expanding the existing Challenge networks as we advance the fights inside the hospital. We need to improve how we integrate communist ideas into our many meetings and conversations about the issues of the moment.

If you would like more information about making a donation or inviting fired nurse Wesley and other hospital workers to speak to your union, church, or neighborhood organization, or even a group of friends, please leave a message at 267-319-3515. ☺



# LETTERS

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

## Mexico PL Project Inspires International Spirit

I had the chance to participate in the Summer Project in Mexico for a couple of weeks along with several other comrades. We stayed in the Federal District and in Mexico State. This was a very enriching and exceptional experience for me because I learned so much from the comrades there, about their struggles and the ways they expand the base of the Party in the places we visited.

We had "marathon" days, getting up very early in the morning and as a group we visited the homes of comrades, friends of the party and readers of CHALLENGE. In these visits, we had the opportunity to learn how whole families participated in the "discussions." That way, we presented mostly the Party line, as well as whatever was relevant to the struggle we were then involved in. We also answered questions and doubts that were generally asked by people we visited.

I returned to New York very moved by this experience. I had the chance to spend time with very humble working people who have the same problems of the working class around the world: must confront poverty, the economic crisis, unemployment, exploitation, bosses' abuses and politicians' promises in their daily lives. In Mexico, I realized that we truly need a communist revolution to put an end to capitalism and its profit system.

*A fighter*

## Anti-Wall Streeters Open to Red Ideas

I had the pleasure of attending the rally at One Police Plaza in NYC on Friday, September 30, called to protest police brutality against the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) demonstrators and to show solidarity with OWS. I arrived at 5:30 and soon there was a picket line of some 100 people in the plaza in front of NYPD headquarters. Most of the 100 protestors were from unions, such as the UAW, the UFT and my union, the PSC, representing CUNY faculty and staff. One of the demands of the protest is the firing of Deputy Inspector Bologna — the police official who pepper-sprayed a half dozen or more demonstrators — and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, who has authorized the arrest of hundreds of non-violent demonstrators.

I hung out with some friends. A little after 6 PM, the OWS march arrived at the Plaza. It was an electrifying moment as about 2,500 marchers streamed into the Plaza with chants of "They Got Bailed Out, We Got Sold Out!" and "Whose Streets?, Our Streets!" The crowd surged toward the NYPD building as the police scurried to erect barricades in front, looking very nervous as they did. One of the popular chants was, "We Are All Sean Bell, NYPD Go to Hell!"

There is a mixture anti-capitalist radicalism and liberalism at these events. Two professors gave speeches that were largely civil libertarian, and one exclaimed that "concentrated wealth is corrupting our democracy" — as though U.S. in 1711, 1811, and 1911 was any more democratic than in 2011 — and implying that political corruption can be stemmed, or reversed, under capitalism. The reality is that the capitalists have always used, and always will use their great wealth to control government.

The large crowd was mostly college and graduate students, some from other parts of the country. Some of the protestors have come from other states and are sleeping in the park at night. They've come for weeks of political activity and have been willing to risk arrest (700 were arrested marching on the Brooklyn Bridge) and police assaults. I admire their convictions and willingness to act. Many of the OWS participants recognize that their own futures and those of others are dim under capital-

ism. The big divide is between those who think that capitalism needs to be abolished and those who think it can be reformed and "our democracy restored."

Another issue is that of non-violence. Many of the OWS demonstrators believe that the movement must be non-violent, which expresses the admirable sentiment that disagreements among people be handled through discussion and example. Unfortunately, capitalists rule by force and their system is one of extreme violence: hunger, homelessness, disease and brutal wars for profit — all of which kill millions each year. It would actually save lives to overthrow such a system, and no matter how much we wish it were otherwise, that can't be done without armed revolution.

Self-critically, when OWS began, I thought about going down and then didn't, thinking it would be small and not attract many workers. I was wrong; it's not so small, workers are beginning to show up, and many of the protestors are critical of capitalism and open to a revolutionary perspective.

*Red teacher*

## Libya A U.S. Proxy War

CHALLENGE'S analysis (10/5) of the current situation is very good ("U.S. Rulers Still Need Greater Fascism, More War"). But the editorial fails to analyze the recent Libyan war in depth (Feb. 15 – Aug. 28). The war produced a re-division of Libya's oil wealth, with China, Italy and Russia losing and France and the U.K. winning.

Most of the fighting was done by the French and British and their Libyan "rebel" allies. But the confidential 14-page Royal United Services Institute report on the war says victory depended on U.S. aerial intelligence, surveillance and support. And the report by U.S. General Abrial underlines the key role played by U.S. aerial tankers, drones and laser-guided bombs. (See *Le Canard enchaîné*, 9/28)

In short, the Libyan war is a perfect example of a U.S. proxy war fought to lock up hydrocarbon sources. The editorial would have been stronger had it analyzed the Libyan war in more detail.

*A friend*

## 'Soviet Jargon' Rhetoric or Class Concepts?

I'm reading your paper from time to time and, overall, I like it. Though I disagree with some of your opinions, I agree with many of your ideas and I'd like more people to hear about you and what you have to offer.

I think that part of your rhetoric is drawn from the Soviet jargon. While you criticize "communist" Russia, where the revolution turned into its opposite, you adopt its rhetoric. While it is possible that part of the expressions are drawn from the fathers of communism, such as Marx, the world associates these expressions to the negative legacy of the USSR. For example, the Dictatorship of the Proletariat reminds me of the totalitarian Soviet regime of the 1960's, where many of its citizens were repressed or even murdered. Expressions such as the "Red Army," and your red flag, immediately remind me of all that was wrong in the Soviet experience.

In my opinion you should dissociate yourselves from this rhetoric. After all, you want to convince new people of your ideas, and I feel that your rhetoric is, in many cases, an obstacle to this. Which is a shame, as you have a bright future to offer to the working class.

*S.G., Kiryat Tivon, Israel*



Many members and friends have asked what we are doing to remember Milt Rosen, founding chairperson of PLP. Progressive Labor Party has established a fund to honor Milt and Harriet Rosen. The International Solidarity Fund will be used to continue our work training young leaders in the 25 countries where we have members and to spread PLP ideas all over the globe. This will help turn the idea of one worldwide communist party into reality.

### Memorial Service:

**NEW AND CHANGED PLACE:**

**Sunday, October 9, 2011 1:30pm**

**Greenwood Baptist Church**

**Corner of 7th Avenue and 6th St.**

**Brooklyn, NY**

Make checks payable to

CHALLENGE Periodicals.

Write "solidarity fund" on the subject line or give to your local PLP club. Send to PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

CHALLENGE comment — Thank you for your letter. We welcome you as a reader of our paper.

While the world's media, virtually all controlled by capitalists, is viciously anti-communist and therefore attempts to distort and disparage communists and our ideas, expressions such as "Red Army" and "red flag" have historically been hailed by tens of millions of workers internationally. During World War II, the working class looked to the heroic Soviet Red Army as its savior in smashing the Nazis. The fact that the capitalist media has downplayed and/or ignored its role hasn't prevented millions of workers from marching with the red flag (originally bed sheets with the blood of revolutionary workers) on May Day for over a century. So we look at "red," the "red flag" and the Red Army as symbols of the best that our class has produced and don't bow down to the rulers' disparagement of it.

As for the "Dictatorship of the Proletariat," as you intimate, it was first coined by Marx as the answer to the dictatorship of the capitalists. It expresses a class understanding of the role of the state and who controls it on whose behalf. We have often explained this when using the term. While the ruling class likens capitalism to "democracy," and therefore contrasts it to dictatorship, the profit system does not express the will of the people, and is itself a vicious dictatorship of the capitalist class. A working-class dictatorship is a dictatorship over the former ruling class and is used to prevent it from returning to power and overturning a workers' communist society.

We do not regard these words as "Soviet jargon," nor do we shy away from using them just because the rulers strive mightily to lie about them. They have lied about the word "communism" for 160 years and tried to make it a dirty word (because they realize it means their end), but we would not omit that term from the masthead of our front page. It is a term deeply imbedded in the history of working-class struggle.

Again, thank you for your letter and hopefully we can continue our mutual exchanges through the pages of CHALLENGE.





# Egypt: Dead-end Reform Goal Doomed Militant Fighters

In actions that inspired the world's working class, millions of Egyptian workers and students filled the streets of Cairo and other major cities in January demanding the head of Hosni Mubarak, the dictator who ruled Egypt since 1981. Workers' strikes in key industries, such as oil, textile, transport and on the Suez Canal were crucial in persuading the military to abandon Mubarak, forcing him out.

Sadly, nine months later the workers' and students' hopes have been dashed. The absence of communist ideas and leadership and the consequent reliance on the dead-end capitalist notion of reform as the key to ending workers' oppression doomed the movement from the beginning. Consider:

- One of the most widespread demands was raising the minimum wage, which has remained at \$6.30 A MONTH since 1984. In the last ten years, national output (GDP) per person has doubled from \$250 a month to \$500, but the increased income has all gone to those in the top 10%. The new military government has steadfastly refused to raise the minimum wage. Nor has it raised pensions: in its last year, the Mubarak government raised the minimum pension (what most retirees get) from \$9 a month to \$24.

- Another key demand was the right to organize independent unions, student groups and political associations. The military government did allow the formation of new political parties if focused only on the upcoming elections. But meanwhile, it has viciously repressed protests. Rather than abolishing the hated military tribunals and the fascist "emergency law" (in place since 1981), the military government has used them more than ever. About 12,000 civilian protestors have been brought before military tribunals, with over 99.9% given long prison sentences — ten times the pace

under Mubarak. Workers protesting unsafe working conditions and low wages have been especially singled out for attack.

- The January protests demanded a government more accountable to the people. The great "accomplishment" of that Papyrus Revolution (as it was called) replaced an 82-year-old Air Force general (Mubarak) with a 78-year-old Army general (Mohamed Hussein Tantawi), the head of the new military government! And these honchos have carefully designed election rules to ensure that the same old elite is re-elected to Parliament. Dissolution of the old ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), mattered little. In the old system the local bosses in each city and town would buy their election, often as "independents" who, after winning, simply rejoined the NDP. The new system will produce the same result; in fact, probably most of the old Parliament members will remain.

Workers and students have lost because they relied on capitalist "democracy." For months under

the new government, they poured into the streets in the hundreds of thousands. But the military government out-waited them.

By contrast, the fascist Muslim Brotherhood is advancing from victory to victory. The military government has been making lots of changes reflecting the Brotherhood's agenda, allowing it partial power in exchange for Brotherhood cooperation in crushing the workers' and students' movement. This deal was on full display in July and August, when Brotherhood-linked thugs — the "Salafist" religious fundamentalists — and the military attacked protestors on alternate days.

Most Egyptians reject the Brotherhood's religious extremism. The military government has been forced to use the Salafist thugs for its dirty work, especially the racist campaign against the Copts, the 10% of Egyptians who are Christian. They have traditionally suffered tremendous racist discrimination.

The ruling classes everywhere use racism to secure political and economic control. But Egyptians who turn out in the streets have repeatedly demanded more jobs, higher wages and better public services, not religious extremism. Only communist leadership can move these militant reform demands into revolution.

Egypt's experience shows how much a communist party matters. Just think of the difference if Egyptian workers had a revolutionary communist party which could organize millions of workers to target the heart of Egypt's ruling class (instead of concentrating on Tahrir Square). That party could have turned this part of the Arab Spring into a glimpse of a worker-led communist society. ☺



## 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

### Rare Admission by U.S. on Libya

**NYT, 9/23** — The United States formally reopened its embassy in Libya on Thursday as the returning ambassador said....

"We know that oil is the jewel in the crown of Libyan natural resources...we can get American companies here on a fairly big scale...this will redound to improve the situation in the United States..."

### Land profiteers burn Africa homes

**NYT, 9/22** — According to the company's proposal to join a United Nations clean-air program, the [Uganda] settlers living in this area left in a "peaceful" and "voluntary" manner.

People here remember it quite differently.... "They said if we hesitated they would shoot us.".... According to a report released by the aid group Oxfam on Wednesday, the Ugandan government and a British forestry company forcibly expelled more than 20,000 people from their homes here in recent years.... "This interest in land is not something that will pass."....Across Africa, some of the world's poorest people have been thrown off land to make way for foreign investors....In this case, the....company involved, New Forests Company, grows forests in African countries with the purpose of selling credits, from the carbon-dioxide its trees soak up, to polluters abroad....

The Ugandan government granted New Forests a 50-year license to grow pine and eucalyptus forests in three districts, and...trade under the [carbon] mechanism....

But there was just one problem: people were living on the land....[T]hey had been there....since the 1970s.

Tensions brewed....Then came Feb.28, a Sunday....

"Cars were coming with police," Mr. Tushabe said, sitting among the ruins of his old home. "They headed straight to the houses. They took our plates, cups, mattresses, bed, pillows. Then we saw them getting a matchbox out of their pockets."

Homeless and hopeless, Mr. Tushabe said he took a job with the company that pushed him out....

### Profits from immigrant jails

**NYT, 9/29** — ....A handful of multinational security companies have been turning crackdowns on immigration into a growing global industry.

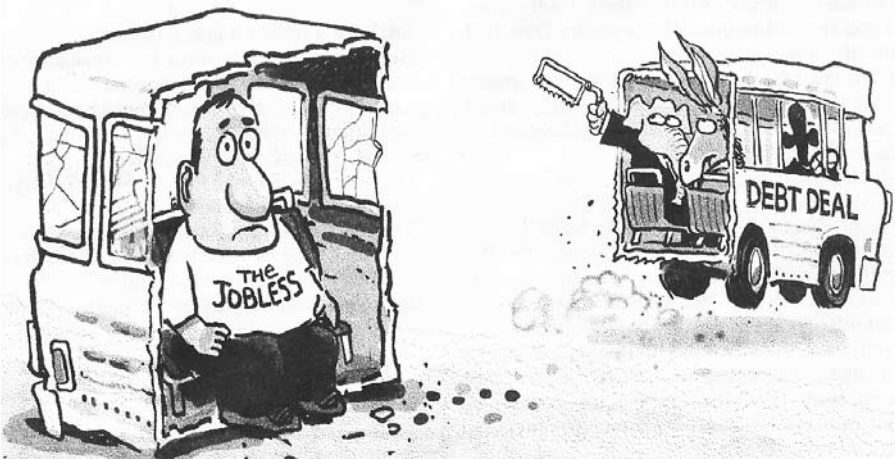
Especially in Britain, the United States and Australia, governments of different stripes have increasingly looked to such companies to expand detention [and] ....enforc[e] tougher immigration laws.

Some of the companies are huge — one is among the largest private employers in the world — and they say they are meeting demand faster and less expensively than the public sector could.

But the ballooning of privatized detention has been accompanied by scathing inspection reports, lawsuits and the documentation of widespread abuse and neglect, sometimes lethal. Human rights groups...worry about the creation of a "detention-industrial complex" with a momentum of its own.

### Bosses openly rob pension funds

**NYT, 9/18** — ...In "Retirement Heist: How Companies Plunder and Profit From the Nest Eggs of American Workers"...Ellen S. Schultz of the Wall Street Journal...lays out...[a] damning indictment of the broken pension promises too many Ameri-



can corporations have made to their workers....

It appears to come down to this: After the huge run-up in stocks during the 1980s, American corporations were sitting on billions of dollars in pension funds that weren't going to be paid to retirees anytime soon. They began pushing to use the money themselves, an effort that resulted in a series of new accounting guidelines and federal regulations that, in time, allowed them to put pension monies to all sorts of uses never before envisioned. Financing corporate restructurings. Paying for retiree health benefits. Paying for golden parachutes. Some companies simply eliminated the pension plan altogether and took the money themselves....Some corporations also...instituted "clawbacks" — that is, informing retirees that they have somehow been overpaid and demanding a lump-sum repayment that very few were able to afford. No promise, it would appear, was too small to be broken.

### Living thru decline of U.S. empire

**GW, 9/30** — ...When the history is finally written, though, it's likely all of this tumult will be remembered as the opening salvo in a wave of negotiations over the dissolution of the American Empire....It's clear that the rich are determined to seize as large a share of the spoils as remain, tossing a whole generation of young people to the wolves in order to do so. But history is not on their side.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

**'I like your ideas, how you live and give leadership...'**

# Jobs Conference Unites Workers, Exposes Capitalist Unemployment

**NEW YORK CITY, September 25** — Today 90 workers — black, Latino and white, men and women, immigrants and citizens, young and old, employed and unemployed — came together in a conference to fight for jobs. The room was alive with workers' solidarity and strength. Our goal is to build a mighty movement, worker by worker and action by action, to confront capitalist unemployment, exploitation, racism and war. "Our movement is based on workers' power, not the politicians," one speaker said. "We say, 'Make the bosses and bankers pay.'"

Workers stood and applauded as a striker from the Central Park Boathouse described how they'd organized their strike and won a victory (see page 3). Conference participants will send a letter of congratulations and solidarity. We also pledged support to the Boathouse workers in their future confrontations with fascist immigration enforcement, job insecurity, layoffs and racist and sexist treatment. Any "victory" for workers can only be temporary until the working class takes state power.

A woman worker from Harlem talked about their fight-back against racist Columbia University, which is building a new satellite campus in West Harlem. After promising jobs to workers in the community, Columbia has hired only two. The conference pledged to turn up the heat on the university by marching in Harlem on October 10.

Then a woman stood and greeted the confer-

ence. We soon realized that she was the boss of a group of homecare workers in attendance — whom she owes thousands of dollars in back wages! With one voice, we chanted "Get out!" and "Paque lo que debe!" (pay what you owe). The boss took notice and is now offering part of what she owes. The fight will continue, with the conference pledging support for these workers and a demonstration when they need it. A leader from the Stella D'oro strike last year emphasized the need for workers' determination and boldness as we fight back.

Before we divided into small groups, five workers in Progressive Labor study groups gave short presentations about unemployment and its brutal impact on the working class. They helped us reach a clearer understanding of why unemployment is both inevitable and necessary under capitalism, how it is essentially racist, and how it relates to the anti-immigrant movement and the accelerated U.S. move toward war. The reports also emphasized the need for workers' unity in a period of rising joblessness.

In our small groups, we discussed what we're doing to fight for jobs. We have made a good beginning, but need more specific plans. We need to struggle with our friends to build a stronger base for the Party with their families, friends, co-workers, neighbors and classmates.

As the conference ended, we enjoyed a delicious meal of Mexican chicken, rice and salad prepared by two women who volunteered their time

and labor for us.

## Workers Speak About the Conference

"I was happy. I never experienced a meeting like this."

"I want to participate in this fight."

"We should have more events like this."

"I was surprised. I missed an opportunity to invite more workers."

"I like your ideas, how you live and give leadership."

When asked why workers had such a positive reaction to the conference, a comrade organizer responded, "Because we were talking about workers' real issues, real solidarity and fight-back for the working class, not about politicians, laws and legislation."

The conference has moved the Party forward in several areas, and will enable PL to widen and deepen the workers' fight-back. As PL members continue to build a base in the working class, especially in capitalist-led organizations, they will distribute more CHALLENGE and win other workers to do the same. They will organize more Party study groups to help workers understand the role of communist ideas and leadership. In turn, more workers will join and lead PL in the long march toward revolution and a truly communist, egalitarian society. ☺

# Precise Pre-Strike Plan Spread PLP Politics to Grocery Workers



"Wow, you're here again for us...Now I know for sure that the community is with us if we go on strike!"

This was the response from workers at a local supermarket that we met as part of the Community Education for Social Action (CESA), a community organization working in the greater East L.A. region. Class consciousness — workers supporting and standing with other workers, regardless of their job, "race," or country of origin — is an absolute necessity for organizing a force for communist revolution. Building this consciousness was our task as we set out to support supermarket workers who were considering a strike in response to an unjust healthcare proposal their bosses were offering.

The plan first began with getting to know the store we "adopted" in East L.A. CESA members, along with students from a nearby State University, selected one day out of the week and the time to go to the store to meet and talk to the workers, develop their contacts, and follow up with them to build a relationship. For an entire month, the group was at the supermarket on Mondays at 5:00 PM, split into groups, and talked to the workers and customers about the unfair contract and opportunity for a strike.

We also discussed how capitalism is based on exploiting workers and how the entire working class is under severe attack in the form of cuts to benefits and wages at work, cuts to education and social programs that provide critical services, and the racist mass unemployment that especially afflicts black and Latino working

lies. We were also able to build a close relationship with a veteran female bakery worker.

As weekly visits continued, trust was being established and recognition of the genuine support was seen. We hit a high point when we brought a group of 17 people to enter the store chanting, carrying signs and delivering a student resolution supporting the workers to management. We saw many smiles as we left because she did not expect such a large body of community residents to arrive.

We still have a lot of work to do. Class consciousness and good feelings among workers will not, in and of itself, bring on the revolution and communism. We've made a good start, but we have to continue to support the workers we met, even though they have accepted the new contract. We still live under a capitalist system. The workers will continue to be exploited.

To that end, we are organizing a Labor Forum with student groups at a local community college. We're inviting grocery workers and also local transit workers — who recently also had to negotiate a new contract — to talk about their experiences with the union, the company, and the community. We will continue to bring awareness about how capitalism destroys the working class but how we need to fight for communism. ☺

class communities.

Building class consciousness, class confidence and the Party takes time. We knew that we couldn't show up once, pass out a CHALLENGE, and expect the Party to grow. This is a long-term project, and we found we were up to it. Over many weeks we made friendships. One worker remarked, "Wow, every time you come here to visit you always bring a group of people." The student worker felt a great support from CESA members and community al-

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