

CHALLENGE



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D.C. Rally Backs Wildcatting Miners



Chicago Teachers Vote STRIKE



WASHINGTON, DC, August 27 — Workers and students organized by the Labor Committee of Occupy DC and PLP members targeted the embassy of South Africa, rallying to protest the murderous attack by the ANC-led government on the wildcatting platinum mine workers (see page 2,8). Thousands of workers and students saw our signs and heard our speeches and chants during rush hour. The Labor Committee passed out 500 leaflets while PLers distributed a Party leaflet and CHALLENGE.

Some were shocked to learn as well as that the African National Congress(ANC), supposedly the liberators of South Africa, has put in place a New Apartheid ruling class made up of white industrialists and imperialists together with a tiny percentage of black Africans, including the “liberators.”

But no one should have been shocked. The sellout by the ANC and its allied “Communist” Party of South Africa was sealed as early as 1987 at the infamous Dakar meeting among the ANC, the leading white capitalists of South Africa, and the Afrikaner leadership. At Dakar, all parties agreed to maintain capitalism in South Africa while allowing modest integration of the ruling class through the freeing of politi-

cal prisoners like Mandela and new elections.

Today, we see the result. Some of the “liberators” now share ownership of the mines with the white capitalists. President Zuma’s nephew, Khulubuse Zuma, and Zondwa Mandela, a grandson of Nelson Mandela, are part-owners of the Aurora gold mine in Grootvlei, east of Johannesburg. This mine went into liquidation in 2009, firing 5,000 people and the company continues to ignore a court order to pay its workers 4.3 million rand (\$537,500) (Associated Press, 8/31/2012). Some liberation!

The ANC government added insult to injury by charging 270 striking miners with murder and attempted murder of the workers gunned down by the police, using an apartheid-era law. This caused such an outrage that the charges were withdrawn “provisionally,” still to be considered. During the rally, protestors tweeted messages about the rally to contacts in South Africa, conveying the determination of Occupiers and PLers to build global, militant working-class unity in the face of the New Apartheid in South Africa, the New Jim Crow in the U.S., and the sharpening attacks worldwide on our sisters and brothers.☺

CHICAGO, September 3 — At least 10,000 Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) members and supporters attended a Labor Day rally here, followed by a march around City Hall and to the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) offices. Chanting, “the workers, united, will never be divided” and “we’re going to beat back the bosses’ attack.” Participants were enthusiastic and feeling their power. On August 30th, CTU’s House of Delegates had voted unanimously to strike on September 10. Speaker after speaker rose to report members at their schools were ready to strike. This developed after months of CPS insults and attacks on students and educators, followed by rallies, marches, informational pickets and outreach to parents and community by CTU members.

The situation is ripe with possibility, but without communist politics, these workers in struggle can turn cynical. This is because the ruling class has only begun to attack education workers and our students. We will not be able to beat back all the attacks, no matter how militantly we fight. As long as the capitalists are running things the workers will be left behind.

The capitalists’ plans for our students include war, low-wage jobs or unemployment and a tightening of

restrictions to prevent fight-back. The implementation of Common Core State Standards, gives the bosses free reign to impose national standards with no opposition from local teachers. The proliferation of charter schools and online “learning” are all aimed at busting the teachers’ unions. These reforms help the capitalists carry out their plans, no matter how many slogans they develop claiming this is all to benefit the students.

All of the rally speakers represented labor unions. One speaker was from the FOP, Fraternal Order of Police. Teachers should not be uniting with the cops who brutalize their students!

The ruling-class attacks hit black and Latino students the hardest, and is the reason education “reforms” are pushed the hardest in urban areas. Chicago, whose public school students are only 8% white, is a test in many ways. Workers around the world have sent messages of support and millions are rooting for a successful strike. Whatever gains may be won, will be temporary as long as the capitalists continue to rule. The role of Progressive Labor Party in spreading its message of communism in this strike will be heard worldwide.☺

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

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South Africa Massacre, U.S. Election Circus Expose Futility of Voting

As the Republican and Democratic Party convention circuses play out in the U.S., the recent massacre in South Africa (see page 8) shows the electoral system's utter antagonism to the working class. On August 16, black and white police officers of the "freely elected" ANC (African National Congress) government shot dead 34 black miners striking at the Marikana platinum mine. "In the majority of cases, the bullet exited the body through the chest, suggesting the men were shot in the back while running away" (Independent, London, 8/30/12). To make matters worse, ANC regime prosecutors have charged 270 survivors of the massacre with murder, even though cops did the shooting. This has been withdrawn "provisionally" due to mass outrage.

The workers died because the politicians commanding the cops serve capitalists. No politician can successfully run for office without fi-



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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nancial and media support from one faction of bosses or another. South Africa's first "democratic elections" in 1994 ended apartheid (legalized segregation and oppression of black people) but ushered in exploitation with a new face. The ANC, like Obama, presides over the same racist profit system which existed in the period before black presidents in South Africa and the U.S.

At the polls, the openly racist, pro-apartheid Dutch-rooted Afrikaner wing of South African bosses lost its once supreme authority. ANC leader Nelson Mandela — who supported capitalism — gained the presidency with both a groundswell of first-time black voters and the backing of the ultra-rich Oppenheimer family. The latter owned the lion's share of the country's gold, diamond and platinum mines and had opposed apartheid while promoting black labor unions. Oppenheimer wanted to end nationwide rebellion and a worldwide boycott to obtain labor peace and foreign investment. The liberal Oppenheimer clan had strong ties to British and U.S. banks, with one of its firms sporting the name Anglo-American.

Capitalist, ANC Alliance Pulled the Trigger

"Mandela and [family patriarch Harry] Oppenheimer became close before Mandela's presidency and would grow even closer: After Mandela's election, Oppenheimer frequently hosted him at his luxurious estate. Mandela was also known to bring De Beers [an Oppenheimer-owned diamond company] representatives on foreign trips" (New Republic, 12/18/07). Under Mandela and his successors, South Africa's state apparatus (including the police) became integrated but now took orders from liberal U.S.- and British-backed mine barons instead of the Afrikaners.

It was this alliance of politicians and corporations, inseparable from the profit system, that pulled the triggers in Marikana. Workers at the mine, owned by British-based Lonmin, had joined the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), which opposed the ANC. They were demanding, along with wage hikes, nationalization of the industry. But early last year, "Anglo-American Plc's Chief Executive

Officer Cynthia Carroll said nationalization of mining assets in South Africa, which has the world's largest mineral reserves, would be 'the road to ruin'" (Bloomberg News, 2/8/11).

Oppenheimer-founded Anglo demanded a full inquiry from current president Jacob Zuma. He heads the ANC, which has consistently enjoyed the false legitimacy of 60-plus percent majorities at the polls. Guess what happened? In less than a year, "a study commissioned by the ruling African National Congress recommended against the policy, saying nationalization would be an 'economic disaster'" (Bloomberg, 2/7/12).

However, nationalization is just another type of bosses' tool to deceive workers into believing that a different set of profit-making bosses can serve workers' needs.

Big Oil/Wall Street Control Both Parties

Back in the U.S., the factions for whom racist capitalist butchers Obama and Romney toil make South African bosses look tame. The Big Oil/Wall Street imperialists steering Obama need to control the Middle East's oil and gas supply routes and are gearing up for a likely clash with China over them. One U.S. drone strike for the benefit of Exxon Mobil and JP Morgan matches the Marikana body count. Obama's Libya adventure, against Chinese and Russian influence, wiped out a thousand times more working-class lives.

Romney's official foreign policy literature puts him in the same "World War III with China" camp as Obama. But billionaire pro-Israel fanatic Sheldon Adelson tops the GOP's donor list, to the tune of a \$100 million campaign pledge. If Adelson's camp prevails and Romney becomes commander-in-chief, a U.S. or Israeli (or joint) strike against Iran could be accelerated.

Voting A Death-Trap for Workers

For workers from the U.S. to South Africa and across the globe, voting is worse than futile. It legitimizes capitalists' killing of our sisters and brothers with a stamp of popular approval. The only route to effective change lies in building towards destroying the profit system and replacing it with true workers' rule, when the international working class holds state power under one party.

That can only be achieved when Progressive Labor Party members win workers and youth in the shops, schools, military and all the other capitalist-led mass organizations to join the PLP.

This will create a mass party capable of smashing the bosses' state with communist revolution. ☪

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.

FIGHT-BACK AGAINST RACIST KILLER KOPS

Anaheim Protesters Demand Workers' Justice

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA — On July 21, the Anaheim police (APD) executed Manuel Diaz on Anna Drive. The next day they killed Joel Avegado. These deaths are a heavy loss for their families, friends and communities. The Anaheim police have killed at least eight young workers this year.

Every day, kkkops are killing and brutalizing young workers. Black, Latino and immigrant are the most attacked. Asian youth in Orange County's Westminster, Filipinos in Los Angeles, and young white workers are also the targets of the bosses' police.

There is no money for jobs, schools and hospitals, but the bosses make sure the police and military are well funded. Bosses rule more and more through force. The cops protect Disneyland's profit interests and pit gangs against each other. The old adage "bosses rule through the carrot and the stick" is changing; there is no money for carrots, only for the sticks. This is what we call the rise of fascism; when capitalism is in crisis, off comes the mask, and out come the dogs.

Workers Drove Out Cops

The workers here are part of a tight-knit community. When Manuel was killed, they protested. They fought the police, and defended their children from the dogs APD unleashed against them after Manuel's death (see CHALLENGE, 8/1). The workers forced the cops and ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) out of Anna Dr. for weeks.

There is great hatred for the APD and great love for Manuel. Forty of his friends, relatives and neighbors organized a car wash to help his family pay for his funeral and other expenses. There were over 500 people at his funeral.

At all these events and more, Progressive Labor Party was active, expressing our sorrow, anger and solidarity with Manuel's family and community. We contributed to the car wash. PL'ers organizing in churches participated. The younger comrades washed cars alongside the young workers.

PL'ers were at Manuel's wake in Pioneer Park. With true working-class morale, the family served 50 of us a delicious lunch. We brought drinks and discussed Manuel, revolution, and communism.

During a conversation with his sister, we cried with her over the murder of her baby brother. We became Facebook friends and said we would not let Manuel's death and the death of all working-class youth be forgotten. One day, the cops and their masters will pay for their crimes against the working class: in blood.

PLP is taking this struggle back to our jobs, schools, and organizations. We have sold CHALLENGEs here. We also began a petition in our churches titled "Anaheim is our Arizona." It is on the windows of bakeries, on the walls of bars of our neighborhood.

Links Killings to Capitalist Crisis

We organized service workers from the University of California (UC) to visit the residents. They are now discussing how to support the Anna Dr. community. There has been much discussion about the crisis of capitalism and why the police are unleashed on young workers. The struggle, and the love for Manuel Diaz as a son of our class, has made us work harder in winning workers to communism and PLP. In one church, the CHALLENGE distribution numbers have tripled.

We will continue using CHALLENGE to fight in solidarity with workers demanding justice and vengeance on the cops who shot our youth down. The bosses will not get away with unleashing their dogs against women and children. We are planning a protest with the residents to march to Anaheim's civic center.

The cops are scared of workers; they should be. The workers of Anna Dr. have shown courage and determination. We have learned much from them. We have many friends who are outraged at the naked racism of the cops. We tell them about the communist movement, and PLP's history in fighting against the bosses' racist police.

We will be in more demonstrations, fundraisers and memorials. We will work hard to get our friends to join PLP. We have a world to win! United under communist leadership the working class will make a revolution. Our work in Anna Drive is another step in the journey to communism. ☺

Brooklyn PL'ers: It's Not Just Atkins, It's KKKapitalism



BROOKLYN, NY, August 25 — "Racist cops you can't hide, we charge you with genocide" rang out as demonstrators chanted throughout the summer in front of the 67th police precinct.

New York City's cops, courts and media hoped to cover up the racist murder of Shantel Davis, a 23-year-old unarmed black woman who, on June 14, black NYPD Detective Phillip Atkins falsely accused of having a criminal record. For months protestors have fought back, forcing New York's rulers to respond.

Shantel's family and supporters, including many organized by PLP, have defied the cops, marching in the streets to that precinct without a permit, a change from earlier legal sidewalk marches.

The committee has also sent a solidarity statement to Anaheim, Ca., anti-police brutality demonstrators and collected hundreds of online and paper signatures demanding that Brooklyn DA (District Attorney) Charles Hynes indict Atkins.

Days after the more militant march and a growing petition drive, Hynes offered to meet with Shantel's family. Before that there was no indication of a criminal investigation. The bosses figured they'd gotten away with another racist murder. But the actions of Shantel's family, PLP and other supporters forced Hynes to act, however limited.

The Two-Faced D.A.

At the meeting Hynes privately promised he would investigate Atkins for possible criminal charges. Publicly he promised nothing. Hynes even demanded that supporters refrain from public protests while he met privately with the family, citing blatant police lies that we were going to storm his office and sit in.

Some supporters on the street, including a PL'er and a family member, wanted to stick to the support committee's decision to protest. But others, some family members in the meeting and mainly the ISO (International Socialist Organization), wanted to obey the DA instead. The supporters did not protest. At a discussion days later we in PLP argued it was a mistake not to protest.

Hynes works with the cops on a daily basis. As the DA, he unjustly jails masses of mainly black, Latino and immigrant youth, largely for non-violent drug offenses. But the courts, cops and capitalists need these legal lynchings to help the bosses create fear and hopelessness.

Hynes letting Atkins walk shows other cops that racist police terror is still acceptable under capitalist law. Workers deserve a communist system — without unemployment, wage slavery and racism — that educates healthy young people to work productively for our class needs.

PLP Grows in Class Struggle

PLP unites the working class to fight back against racist double unemployment rates for black and Latino workers and youth, constant police harassment, oil wars for profit, cuts to education and health funding and racist anti-immigrant laws.

These fights enable PLP to grow and to learn how to lead a communist, worker-run society. But the DA only wants Shantel's family and supporters to give up and go away. Not protesting signaled to Hynes that it won't take much to make that happen. After discussion, the committee decided to continue forward with a more militant approach.

At the final August march, despite smaller numbers, we again demonstrated in the street at the 67th precinct. When a police Lieutenant, flanked by two cops, ordered us to get back behind the barricades and to turn off our bullhorn, no one obeyed. Noticing our determination, the cops backed off.

But no U.S. mayor, DA or police commissioner has ever locked up a cop for murder, even with determined protests, like the 2000 rebellion in Flatbush, Brooklyn, against the police murder of Patrick Dorismond (see box, page 5).

To truly win justice for Shantel Davis and all the other victims of capitalism, workers must build a movement not only to rebel against racism but also to destroy its source, capitalism, with communist revolution.

At the last August rally, Shantel's uncle blasted the police for protecting drug pushing, dirty cops like Detective Atkins and for wounding nine bystanders days before while shooting an armed gunman in Manhattan. But he also insisted there are good cops like those in Shantel's family.

One PLP member, originally from South Asia and recently returned from Haiti, spoke about how racist cops attack workers worldwide. She said the police, a tool of the state, are used to serve the bosses. All cops are enemies of workers. The real problem is

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Politicians, Union Hacks Zap Workers

Bosses' Killers: Hospital Closure, Billion\$ for War

BROOKLYN, AUGUST 15 — Downstate Hospital workers held a rally on August 8 to fight proposed layoffs and to keep the hospital open. This week, nearly 400 workers received pink slips.

The threatened closing and layoffs affect all workers but are particularly racist and sexist. Downstate serves mainly poor black and Latino workers, most whom are Caribbean immigrants. The workers are mainly black, Latino and migrant women. Capitalism is built on, and breeds, racism and sexism. These divisions cannot be eliminated without destroying the root cause.

The civil rights movement of the sixties forced the state to hire more nonwhite workers and to provide more services. Now, in a racist election year reversal, politicians — from President Barack Obama to Vice President Joe Biden to Presidential candidate Mitt Romney to Vice President nominee Paul Ryan to NY Governor Andrew Cuomo — are falling over each other to cut budgets by attacking workers for capitalism's problems. They will never be honest about how bosses steal the wealth all workers create.

Government spending goes for their massive imperialist war machine and to finance capital via interest on government bonds. Com-

munist of Progressive Labor Party do tell workers the truth: through mass action, rallies, discussions, and the international workers' paper, CHALLENGE.

PLP fights against racist and sexist budget cuts, unemployment, and healthcare cuts. Several thousand jobs and the medical care of some 440,000 patients will be lost each year. With so much at stake, some workers would expect the union leaders to fight back.

The unions UUP, CSEA and PEF called this rally for show. No electric sound system was provided for the speakers. The union misleaders had no plan to stop the cuts and closing; their job is to placate us. Several clergy and politicians spoke but brought NO congregants or constituents to stop this theft of jobs and patient care.

This is the biggest life-and-death issue in New York City, yet the community has no idea Cuomo plans to close Downstate. The politicians, union leaders, and all the government lackeys serve capitalism. Their interest is to protect profit and therefore, any unity with them spells a trap and death for workers.

After the rally, workers remarked, "we should have gone in the street, maybe then media would cover the impending clo-

sure." Workers showed anger over the undercover state police presence (see box) by asking the cops "why are you taking our pictures" and then the cops pointed out rank-and-file militants to the hospital bosses.

These are signs that workers want to do more; these are young workers who know serious working-class struggle is more than letter-writing and lunch-hour rallies. They are thinking about having a job action or a strike. When they mention job actions in union meetings the leadership goes crazy, saying, "No, because we are bound by the New York State Taylor law." The union leaders build demonstrations for angry workers to let off steam.

PLP fights, not for scraps, but for revolution. We will destroy these union bosses, politicians and the profit system worldwide. When involved in the daily struggles, we can effectively expose how capitalism divides us along racist, sexist, and nationalist lines in order to make maximum profits and remain in power. As we fight for international workers' unity, we learn to use our power to build a communist revolution.✪

Union Causes Arrest of Retiree Activist

Following a July 25 demonstration, a long-time former Local 1199 union member and shop steward was arrested by Downstate Hospital security. Only after he was in handcuffs did he learn there was a warrant for his arrest.

In the weeks before his arrest, this recent retiree had been involved in activities to fight against layoffs and closing of Downstate. He had attended a meeting of 1199 at the affiliated Long Island College Hospital (LICH), which was called to discuss LICH layoffs.

An 1199 organizer blamed Downstate workers for LICH layoffs. This retiree rose to challenge this anti-worker divisive tactic. He called for solidarity to fight all layoffs and closings.

The organizer's response was to kick the retiree out of the meeting and call hospital security. Although he left the meeting and hospital without contact with LICH security, the union organizer's call had resulted in LICH pressing charges of criminal trespass.

We see how the unions and the state serve to subdue workers' fight-backs.

Capitalists' 'Solve' Crisis: Bail Banks, Cut Pensions



The state of Illinois owes \$83 billion to the pension fund of state university workers and teachers, state gov't workers, and suburban and downstate public school teachers. The state wants to reduce its obligation to the thousands of workers who paid into the fund, and who either plan to retire or who now depend on their pension to survive. These workers don't receive social security, and unlike high-ranking retired state officials, their pensions are barely enough to live on.

At a rally organized to protest the proposed cuts, a retired teacher spoke of how she depends on her \$28,000/yr pension after teaching for 30 years. She and many other pensioners feel betrayed by the state for breaking the promise of a secure retirement in exchange for years of service.

But what else can we expect from a rotting, decrepit system.

Why Now?

The state pension funds have been underfunded for years, either through mismanagement, corruption, or stealing. U.S. capitalism is generally declining in comparison to China, Russia, Germany, and others and when the bosses are in trouble they attack workers. This means that bailout money is only available for banks, not for workers' pensions.

The so-called liberal democracy turns more to police terror, racism and fear to control workers. These fascist developments also occurred in Germany, Japan, Italy, and Spain prior to World War II.

Bosses Reduce Wages to Increase Exploitation and to Compete Globally

When the bosses' system is being squeezed they reduce our wages and pensions, as well as our standard of living in order to compete on the world market. Wisconsin and Indiana recently abolished the collective bargaining rights of state workers, which will mean lower wages and benefits. The Chicago Cook County bosses have terrorized workers by closing Oak Forest Hospital, and engineered widespread layoffs. Detroit teachers suffered mass layoffs, and across the U.S. bosses are privatizing education in order to smash teachers' unions.

After a bitter four-month strike, Caterpillar, a global company based in Joliet, Illinois, forced its workforce to accept a contract that more than doubles workers' healthcare payments, freezes pensions and provides no raise for workers with the most seniority. All this while the CEO makes \$17 million a year and the company just reported record profits.

Why Workers Should Consider Communist Revolution

The bosses' effort to save their dying system means one attack after another against the interests of the working class. They will continue to cut pensions, schools, hospitals, public transport, and terrorize workers through a police state, and endless imperialist oil wars. Communist revolution would mean mobilizing millions of workers to smash the state and establish a new system, communism, eliminating money, racism and sexism. Society would be based around the needs and wants of the producers of all value, the working masses, under the leadership of the Progressive Labor Party. Join us.✪

Bosses' Police Declare War on Working Class

In July, the names of Manuel Diaz and Joel Acevedo were added to those of Kenneth Chamberlain Sr., Ramarley Graham, Shantel Davis, Rasheed Simms, Anastasio Hernandez Rojas, Sergio Guereca, Carlos La Madrid, Derek Lopez, Raul Rosas and countless others who have been murdered by the police. In the immediate aftermath of the Manuel Diaz murder, residents of the Anaheim, CA, neighborhood where he was shot took to the streets to confront the police over the unjustified killing. Police dispersed the crowd with tear gas, rubber bullets and a rampaging police dog that tried to attack an infant (Democracy Now, 7/24/12).

The murders and the police response have led many to wonder whether the police have declared war on black and Latino communities. In fact, for forty years now the police have officially declared war on the entire working class. Following the urban uprisings of the late 1960s, the ruling class looked for better ways to control working-class anger. Because black, Latino and immigrant workers are the most exploited under capitalism, the bosses fear their anger and use racist ideas and outright racist attacks to keep populations passive. Since the sixties, the police have become increasingly militarized.

Marines Train SWAT Teams

The police began to train with Special Forces units back from Vietnam in techniques to put down insurgent movements. The LAPD, ever the "innovators," responded to labor unrest by creating the first SWAT teams, trained at Camp Pendleton Marine base in military techniques of civilian repression. Indeed, their first deployment was in operations attacking striking farm workers in Delano, CA, in 1969.

Since then, a mix of increased federal funding and confiscation

laws passed in the 1980s has led to the proliferation of paramilitary SWAT teams across the country, armed to the teeth with the latest military weaponry. Few understand the extent to which these units were armed directly by the military. Between 1995 and 1997 the Defense Department gave out, free of cost, 6,400 bayonets, 3,800 M-16s, 2,185 M-14s, 73 M-79 grenade launchers, and 112 Armored Personnel Carriers. The number of these paramilitary units has increased to over 1,200 today in diverse communities from New York City to the University of Central Florida.

This new strategy of counter-insurgency that developed in U.S. policing after the 1960s was called "weed and seed" amongst police forces but is known better by its military jargon "Clear-Hold-Build." The idea was to single out "trouble spots" (working-class neighborhoods) and flood them with SWAT-team raids in an overwhelming show of force: "shock and awe," which includes the stop-and-frisk of hundreds of thousands of mainly black and Latino youth.

Community Policing: The 'Friendly' Cops

Then while police terror was still high a program of community infiltration would begin. Known as "community policing," officers walk neighborhood streets and infiltrate schools, churches and youth programs under the guise of police-community partnerships. Schools install metal detectors and allow police to roam their halls, making the student body conform to the fascist invasion of personal space. Churches bring police into community partnerships that provide a cover for police abuse. Various youth programs encourage kids to see the police as their allies in a struggle against their

own community.

Under community policing, the police are able to gather intelligence on target communities that is stored in digital information warehouses. In LA, police carry a list of 65 "suspicious activities" that, when witnessed, are filed in a report that is catalogued at a Joint Fusion Center (a digital database that can be accessed by police, FBI, and Dept. of Homeland Security). It is important to note that in these intelligence operations no crime is being committed, yet surveillance is legalized. As participants in the "war on terror," police and intelligence agencies openly spy on citizens in ways that would have been kept secret a generation ago.

Police use this intelligence gathering to then disrupt activities of those who might pose a threat to the capitalist order. Their strategy is classic counter-insurgency. Shock the system with a massive show of force, then infiltrate the community dissolving the social bonds that tie people together. Once the population is isolated by terrorism and induced paranoia, they can be dominated. They become more susceptible to the attacks on their wages, schools, health, and environment that allow the capitalists to live large on the

backs of the working class.

New Strategy A Killing Machine

The result of the adoption of a counter-insurgency strategy by police has been a steady increase in the number of police murders, which average 373 people killed per year (though the lack of statistics makes this a low estimate). The use of deadly force by police increased 34% during the 1990s. During the year 2001 there were over 40,000 deployments of SWAT teams against communities, and since 2001 there has been a 25% rise in the number of police brutality cases filed (which again grossly underestimates the actual numbers). Since 9/11 and the creation of the Homeland Security department, police and military forces have only increased their collaboration. The police have been so successful in their war that Marines received training from the LA SWAT team in urban warfare before deploying to Afghanistan in 2010.

The police violence that has claimed the lives of so many people in the U.S. is endemic to the system of capitalism that sees workers as a commodity to be dominated and exploited. The violence on the streets of New York and LA is also visited on the people in Kabul, Baghdad, and elsewhere. Imperialism breeds fascism at home and in turn fascism at home spawns violence in the imperial periphery. When capitalism is in crisis, as it is today, the capitalists' only solution is to squeeze the working class. This means that police violence is hardly the work of "a few bad apples." Rather it is the natural response of a repressive system that demands total obedience from the working class.✪

(For more information on police tactics see the work of Christian Parenti and Kristian Williams.)



Fight Racist Killer Kops

continued from page 3

capitalism. She called on workers to fight directly for communist revolution and join PLP.

PL'ers are continuing to work with the family to force the DA to indict Atkins. But we know workers can't rely on the bosses' courts for justice.

The growth of a fighting PLP is the only way to guarantee that the bosses won't get away with racist police murder. No matter how long it takes, PLP will eventually lead the working class to smash the bosses' cops and courts and establish a communist society worthy of Shantel Davis and every worker struck down by capitalism worldwide.✪

In 2000, Youth and PLP Battled Police Terror

On March 16, 2000, Patrick Dorismond and a friend were hailing a cab in Manhattan when undercover Detective Anthony Vasquez — not identifying himself as a cop — asked Dorismond if he had any drugs to sell. Indignant, Patrick told him "No!" in no uncertain terms. Patrick was angered by the insistent "dealer." When Patrick tried to wave him off, the cop punched him. Patrick defended himself and immediately was shot by another cop and lay on the street in pool of blood, gasping for air. He died soon after.

The next weekend a large, militant demonstration occurred at Patrick's workplace, attended by many rank-and-file community groups. The protesters tore down barricades and the police were told not to "escort" the marchers. While politicians and misleaders called for a federal investigation, the protesters' mood was clearly different. People were very receptive to Progressive Labor Party literature and CHALLENGE. Some speakers championed the need to close down Wall Street and the city's business districts.

The Masses Are Heroes

Then on March 25, some PLP members marched with the funeral

procession that eventually numbered over 7,000 people. As this sea of angry workers saw Patrick Derision's casket being passed into the church, a roar of rage filled the air. One thousand cops barricaded the area, trying to contain these workers. Our bullhorn created an open mike that became the voice of many protesters.

The masses surged forward and tore the barricades down. The cops retreated. The crowd was emboldened. Drums pounded, workers screamed with anger. Our PLP banner "Destroy Police Terror with Communist Revolution" remained at the front and people continued to speak for nearly two hours outside the funeral service.

When it ended, again the workers surged forward, amid chants to march to the 67th precinct. The cops had no intention of allowing such a mass of angry workers near their station.

When one group broke through a barricade, a genuine street battle ensued. Bottles and batteries rained down on the cops who swung wildly into the crowd with clubs and pepper spray. But the youth didn't back down and led the way, hurling everything they could find at the cops, then retreating quickly for half a block. The cops found only empty

streets. Then the youth would launch another round and the events would be repeated.

Cops on horseback galloped down the street, further enraging the workers. They leapt into the streets, flipping barricades and crisscrossing them so that an entire block became an obstacle course for the horses. Buying time this way, the workers raced to the next intersection and blended once again into the crowd.

That night Flatbush remained under heavy police presence. Meanwhile, any empty squad car had its windows smashed and tires slashed.

Our Party, having organized in Flatbush for many years, particularly among high school students and young workers, created lots of opportunities at the rally. Many participated with us throughout the day.

Now we must bring the issue of police terror to our jobs and schools. With consistent activity in mass organizations and solidifying deep ties with as many workers and youth as possible, a modest group can have a mass effect.✪

LETTERS

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

Mexico: Red School Shows Workers' Strength

During an early Tuesday afternoon during our PL communist school at a comrade's house in Mexico, we had an interesting ideological discussion about the component parts and essence of fascism and how the Party's ideas differ from a liberal or conservative perspective.

Around 3:30 PM, a group met outside on the patio to discuss the Party and communism with three workers. One was an unemployed worker from the neighborhood; another was a worker from Oaxaca who formerly worked as a taxi driver; and the third had recently become unemployed from work in a local factory.

The conversation about communism and the PLP was broad, like the majority of those we had in various study groups, but two specific subjects included the "war on drugs" and an analysis of the teachers' strike in Oaxaca some years back. The worker from that area perceived a certain selfishness by striking teachers. Party members did our best to describe the history of the teachers' fight-back and how it advanced the interests of all workers in that area in particular and in Mexico in general.

At 8:00 PM we had a large meeting of over 25 people at the house of two workers from a local company. Four more workers from that workplace also attended, including a dedicated comrade. These workers have been constantly involved in struggles against the boss.

A Party leader in Mexico gave a power point presentation about the international situation, especially on capitalist rivalry to control oil resources and oil distribution routes. It included graphs and statistics. Much political conversation followed afterwards, primarily answering the questions of the invited non-PL members. One worker doubted the working class's ability to organize communist society after eliminating the capitalists. We gave examples of the strength and abilities of the working class and the energy of youth organized by a disciplined international communist party. The worker shook hands, encouraged by this exchange of ideas.

A comrade

Challenge Impact of Nuclear Radiation

The CHALLENGE editorial (8/15), comparing the horrific Aurora movie theatre deaths to the vastly greater number of deaths from U.S. imperialism, was excellent — on every point but one. It quoted a paragraph from Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) that predicts that if the Israeli or U.S. ruling class bombs Iran's nuclear facilities, there will be "severe public health impacts," and says, "it is impossible to predict in advance the number of people that would be killed and injured..." This is code for catastrophe, as indicated by PSR's comparison to the 1984 chemical explosion at a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India that released poisonous gas, killing thousands and injuring tens of thousands more.

PSR implies these deaths would be in addition to the number of civilians killed by the explosive force and shrapnel in any bomb attack and that the cause of these additional deaths would be radiation or radioactive material released by the bombing. Many civilians would definitely be killed in such bombings. Neither the Israeli nor the U.S. ruling class would hesitate to commit such mass murder.

But it is simply false that there would be additional civilian deaths due to radioactivity or radiation. Nuclear reactors are not nuclear bombs, since the gap in concentration of fissionable uranium — around 20 times too small in a reactor — far exceeds the gap in explosives in a cap for a child's toy pistol versus that in a murder weapon. Virtually nothing PSR says about nuclear energy is true.

The Iranians have only one operational nuclear reactor — for electricity, operated and maintained by the Russians. They also have several small research reactors, including some at Isfahan, the place PSR claims would produce catastrophe.

While bombing any of these might indeed re-



Miners in South Africa fight against bosses' attacks with arms (see page 2,8).

lease some radioactive uranium and a small amount of accumulated fission products, uranium exists as part of nature. Its use as fuel in a reactor does not make it any more dangerous. Fission products, for the most part, decay away in days or are excreted from the body in even shorter times. Furthermore bombing any of the underground uranium enrichment facilities would, at worst, only release a small amount of natural uranium.

Despite much propaganda to the contrary, the fission products released even by the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors have harmed no one — though there might be a very small chance of one future additional cancer among the handful of plant workers. They received doses beyond 100,000 mrem, a huge dose to which no one in the public has been, or could be, exposed. But it would be undetectable against the 20 percent or so of all Japanese who get cancer some time in their lives from other causes, mainly smoking — a far lower percentage than the 30 percent in the U.S.

The only deaths associated with Fukushima have been due to the forced evacuation and relocation of 100,000 Japanese living near the plant — over 500 elderly and others so far, according to Japanese media and reports. These result from ripping people away from their homes, jobs, neighborhoods, and communities. This has only added to the immense number of deaths due to the quake and tsunami of March 2011 — over 25,000.

All estimates of future radiation-caused deaths from Fukushima are calculations based on the demonstrably false claim that all radiation is harmful, no matter how low the dose. This fiction ignores the way all biological organisms, including humans, have evolved to react naturally and protectively to low-level radiation and low doses of virtually all other naturally occurring chemical and physical agents. High doses of every single one can overwhelm our defenses and kill. It also ignores all the natural radiation in our environments from sky and ground, which exceeds, in many places in the world, the radiation released from Fukushima.

This may be hard to believe because of the deluge of fear-mongering news reports by various government agencies and media in both Japan and the U.S. We cannot provide evidence of these statements in a brief letter.

However, following several years of research, we have written a lengthy article on nuclear energy and radiation to appear in a future issue of THE COMMUNIST magazine, explaining all related issues. As our article demonstrates, nuclear energy will yet prove to be the only solution to the long-term energy problem in the face of the near-depletion of oil, coal, and natural gas. It will prove to be the only clean energy that can completely replace

these fossil fuels and prevent further greenhouse gases that are forcing the earth toward ever-hotter climates. This will likely require a mass working-class communist-led revolution that rips power away from the capitalists and replaces the profit system with workers' power.

Two pro-nuclear comrades

Bet on Communist Revolution

In a letter to CHALLENGE (9/5), the PLP idea of all-out U.S.-China war is disputed by Ancient Red. But who was the U.S. at war with in Korea and Vietnam? The Korean War killed four million, including 58,000 U.S. soldiers. My comrades in Korea told me of many battles when the brown hills suddenly became the blue color of Chinese Army uniforms. In the Vietnam War, the Chinese Army provided training, arms and supplies along the thousand-mile Ho Chi Minh trail under daily bombardment.

Ancient Red suggests that British tactics using nationalist and religious forces to do most of the fighting would be more effective than all-out war. But history shows the U.S. militarily backed the Chinese nationalist Chang-Kai-Shek against the communists until they crushed him. In Korea and Vietnam, the U.S., with the world's most powerful military, backed puppet nationalists but the communists defeated them. Decades of massive military support to nationalist and religious forces in Afghanistan and Pakistan have produced nothing but failure for U.S. capitalist oil and gas interests.

The U.S. has over 1,100 military bases in 130 countries and spends more than half of its budget on the military because it understands what Ancient Red cannot grasp — that the all-out war option has always been on the capitalists' table.

Ancient Red says it is impossible to outline a scenario which would lead to benefits from all-out war. How about the prelude to World War II? A worldwide depression, U.S. and Britain enforcing military sanctions on their main capitalist rivals, Japan and Germany, leading to a war costing 50 million lives. But the U.S. capitalists got out of a ten-year depression hole that threatened communist revolution and became the top dog in the imperialist world.

Don't bet on rulers' wars to make it easier for PLP's revolution says Ancient Red. But history shows that capitalists must always start profit wars and history also shows that communists know how to finish them with communist revolution. I'll bet on that! Join PLP.

Korean War Vet

Armed Miners Defy Racist Massacre

continued from page 8

ernment and the unions have failed to come to our rescue. Companies make a lot of money at our expense and we get paid almost nothing."

Joyce Lebelo, a miner's wife, built a tiny shack in 1998, thinking the new government would soon provide her with a proper house. She is still waiting. "When we voted, we didn't think we would spend ten years living in a shack. The promises they made they have not delivered. The people who got power are fat and rich. They have forgotten the people at the bottom."

As one official of a new, militant miners' union said, "We made the ANC what it is today, but they have no time for us. Nothing has changed. Only the people on top and they keep getting more money" (NYT, 8/17).

PLP Analysis Proved Correct

This situation was exactly what the Progressive Labor Party warned would ensue when Nelson Mandela and his African National Congress took the reins of government eighteen years ago. Although Mandela spent decades in jail, he was not about to lead a revolution against capitalism that created these abominable conditions. One of his early pronouncements was to reject worker demands for increased wages and

benefits on the grounds that it would "discourage foreign [capitalist] investment."

When PLP declared that the maintenance of capitalism would continue the apartheid-era exploitation of black workers, we were roundly criticized by all the liberals, nationalists and pseudo-leftists who predicted a "new era of freedom." What the working class got was rampant unemployment, deep poverty, intolerable working conditions, squalid housing and an emerging, tiny elite class of black oppressors who — along with the dominant apartheid-era corporate rulers — profited from the misery of the masses. And then and now, U.S. corporations like GM and Ford netted tens of millions in superprofits from that racist exploitation.

As we said then and reiterate now, only a communist revolution, and the building of a party to lead it, can solve the problems these miners, and all workers, face. Only a system without bosses and profits can enable the working class, which produces everything of value, to reap all the fruits of our labor, according to need.

Union Colludes with Bosses

The capitalist media has been painting the miners' struggle as one stemming from competition between rival unions rather than growing out of real demands over real oppressive conditions. The rank-and-file rock-

drillers are self-organized, under their own leadership and have armed themselves to fight for the integrity of their strike against all comers, joined by women from the shantytown armed with knobkerries (clubs).

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is closely allied with the governing ANC, and has lost the majority of its miner members. The NUM's former leader, Cyril Ramaphosa, is now a rich director on the Lonmin board. The NUM has been challenged by the new, militant Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU). The latter has been demanding "sharp increases in pay and faster action to improve the grim living and working conditions for miners" while exposing the NUM's alliance with the government.

NUM general secretary Frans Baleni defended the police action, saying, "The police were patient." (NYT, 8/17) When the NUM president addressed the strikers and echoed the bosses' line, calling on them to return to work, the miners began yelling their opposition, forcing the cops to escort him safely away. The traitorous South African "Communist" Party called for the arrest of the AMCU leaders. However, the latter head a reform union with no political vision beyond immediate demands. While verbally defending the workers against the avalanche of media condemnation, they did not organize the

strike or join the workers in battle.

A striking winch operator and AMCU member who gave his name as Kelebene and makes \$500 a month for difficult, dangerous work said, "NUM has deserted us. NUM is working with the [rulers] and getting money. They forgot about the workers." (Boston Globe, 8/17)

The British-owned company, declaring the strike "illegal," has obtained a court order to force the workers back to work or be fired. But winch operator Makosi Mbongane, 32, told the Associated Press, "They can beat us, kill us and kick and trample on us,...do whatever they want to do, we aren't going back to work."

As AMCU strike leader Joseph Mathunjwa told Reuters, "We're going nowhere. If need be, we're prepared to die here."

This is an anti-imperialist struggle against a huge mining company, tightly knit with the rich post-apartheid local elite, who sit on the board and protect their super-profits. It is also an antiracist struggle. Only communism can end racism everywhere.

This is a huge potential base for an international revolutionary communist movement and party, the missing ingredient needed to turn these brave miners toward revolution based on international class unity. This can bypass the mistakes of the old communist movement and dare to win it all. ☺

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

US crimes as world policeman

NYT, 8/18 — To the Editor:

The American war in Vietnam was...shameful....

During the war the United States dumped an ocean of toxic defoliants on a small, impoverished agrarian society. Large swaths of the country remain severely contaminated to this day. And tens of thousands of Vietnamese endure horrendous birth defects...linked to...use of Agent Orange....

The mothers said this problem had not occurred before "the planes sprayed the mist."

[In 1966]...a United States...official in Vietnam...assured me that studies showed that Agent Orange spraying had no adverse effects on people's health. More than 40 years too late...[the] government has...[admitted] reality.

Profits become hospital's main aim

NYT, 8/15 — During the Great Recession, when many hospitals across the country were nearly brought to their knees....profits at the health care industry giant HCA, which controls 163 hospitals from New Hampshire to California, have soared....

Among the secrets to HCA's success: It figured out how to get more revenue from...Medicare by billing much more aggressively for its services than ever before; it found ways to reduce emergency room overcrowding and expenses; and it experimented with new ways to reduce the cost of its medical staff, a move that sometimes led to conflicts with doctors and nurses over concerns about patient care....

Some of its hospitals fended off lawsuits over

the problem in recent years, and were admonished by regulators over staffing issues more than once.

Many doctors interviewed at various HCA facilities said they had felt increased pressure to focus on profits.... Their profits are going through the roof, but, unfortunately, it's occurring at the expense of patients...."

The story of HCA's growth offers a window on the changing world of health care. Small and non-profit hospitals are closing or being gobbled up by medical conglomerates, many of which operate for a profit.

No English? Medical results suffer

NYT, 8/10 — A visit to a hospital emergency department or a doctor's office can be confusing and even frightening....for the 25 million people in the U.S. with limited English proficiency....

A trained medical interpreter can make all the difference. Too often, however, interpreter services at hospitals and other medical facilities are inadequate. Family members, including children, often step in....

Such ad hoc interpreters make twice as many potentially clinically significant interpreting errors as do trained interpreters.

French socialist strengthens police

NYT, 8/15 — [French] "rioting" ...in the...city of Amiens....followed several days of minor clashes between young people and the police....with cars and three buildings burned and 17 police officers injured by rocks, fireworks and buckshot....

As the first [French] Socialist president in 17



years, Mr. Hollande has been eager to show that he is tough on security issues....

[He] promised more beat officers during his campaign....

The "rioting"...could reflect...a period of record joblessness.

Many high school students feel ignored

LAT, August — According to "The Silent Epidemic Perspectives of High School Dropouts," a 2006 report,...the No. 1 reason [students] cited for dropping out was "classes were not interesting." The report said the students felt a lack of connection to the school environment and...that school is boring, a chilling fact to consider in assessing how "non-elite" students view their learning environments.

"It seems pretty clear that to engage students you need to make school relevant, you have to make it challenging, and there has to be cues that people at school care about them and their well-being...."

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Car Wash Workers Expose Exploiting Boss

A group of workers associated with several community organizations conducted militant protests in front of two car washes, property of two different owners. The group chanted "Car Washers United Will Never Be Defeated" and "Workers United Will Never Be Defeated," as well as many other militant slogans. We showed our solidarity with these mostly immigrant workers, some undocumented, who've had "enough" and have decided to form a trade union to fight for their rights and to be heard. These workers are fighting for a higher minimum wage and better working conditions.

Justice and Workers' Rights

Just the mention of these two ideas got the owners of the car washes to retaliate against the workers, reducing their working hours and harassing them to force them to quit their jobs. The main issue here is the soon-approaching union elections.

One of the owners is called Gary, but workers call him "Claws" (which in Spanish rhymes with Gary). In spite of all his efforts, this abusive exploiter couldn't break our consciousness and unity. His attacks only motivated us to chant louder in the last protests, which we hope are only the beginning.

At the Long Beach Car Wash, one of the workers, who at the time was drying a car, took the lead and raising a fist begun chanting our slogans in front of "Claws." His arrogant expression and attitude when he didn't meet the workers' demands on time, showed his hatred towards those whose prompt, daily work, makes him richer.

This shows once again, that workers' struggle against the bosses, whose only purpose is to increase their profits through thievery, exploitation and abuses of the working class, must grow. We have to win these workers to deepen the struggle, because the fight for simple demands under capitalism cannot solve our problems. Only communism can put an end to this scourge. This is why we must win the working class to fight for a revolution. ☛

Apartheid Alive in South Africa

Armed Miners Defy Racist Massacre



Apartheid is alive and growing in South Africa. The racist police massacre of 34 striking miners, the wounding of 78 others and the arrest of 259 outside the Lonmin platinum mine in Rustenberg on August 16 mirrors the apartheid of the late 20th century, the one of a racist white Nazi-type capitalist ruling class oppressing the entire black population. In fact, apartheid became a virtual synonym for racism.

"The strike and the government's iron-fisted response are emblematic of...South Africa's largely white-owned business establishment and... [the fact] that the ANC [African National Congress] and its allies have become too cozy with big business" (New York Times, 8/17).

The current apartheid pits this mostly white big business class joined with a small black government elite of profiteers enforcing the same capitalist oppression against the entire, mostly black working class. And similar to the previous rebellions of the last century, workers are mounting armed resistance.

Eight miners were killed on August 10, when 3,000 miners, mostly rock drillers, went out on a wildcat strike demanding a tripling of their poverty-level wages which have remained as low as they were under apartheid, 18 years ago. "If we stop, it all stops," they proclaimed. "If neither the union nor the employer will listen, we will make them. We will apply objective violence until they are forced to listen to our grievances."

The mine cannot operate without

the rock drillers who work at dangerous depths, holding 50-pound drills against the rock face, their bodies vibrating for the duration of their 8-hour shifts. Then they emerge to the misery of shack dwellings, with no electricity, running water or sanitation.

The rock-drillers are not allowed to live in the real cities of South Africa, sentenced like nonpersons to a life of wage slavery deep below ground in a "planet of slums," but their strike shook the market in the great financial centers of the capitalist world. They are an inspiration to workers everywhere!

Lonmin — the world's third largest platinum mining company in a country that produces 80 percent of the world's platinum reserves — labeled the strike "illegal." A largely black police force (BBC News, 8/17) was ordered out to escort in any potential scabs. On August 16, they set up a barricade of razor wire encircling the miners. The police demanded they disarm and disperse. The miners, armed with machetes, sticks, spears and clubs, fought back, outflanked

the cops and tried to burst through the cordon to bar scabs from breaking the strike.

Then the police, holding automatic rifles, pistols and shotguns, began spraying the miners with tear gas. As the miners tried to escape the gas, the cops opened fire hitting many miners in the back. "After three minutes of gunfire, bodies littered the ground in pools of blood" (The Guardian, 8/17). A 36-year-old miner named Paulos said, "They started shooting at us with rubber bullets. Then I saw people were falling and dying for real. I knew then they were proper bullets" (New York Times, 8/18). The scene echoed the previous apartheid era when the cops and the military used live ammunition to quell protests.

The miners, who now earn \$300 to \$500 a month, are demanding monthly raises of \$625 to \$1,563. An August 14 report by the Bench Marks Foundation, which monitors multi-national mining corporations, said Lonmin has a "bad track record, with high levels of fatalities" and keeps workers in "very poor living conditions. Children suffer from chronic illnesses due to sewage spills caused by broken drainage" (Associated Press, 8/17).

Workers Condemn Bosses, Governing ANC and Union Partners

Miner Thuso Masakeng told the Agency France Press (8/17), "We can't afford a decent life. We live like animals because of poor salaries.... We are being exploited; both the gov-

continued on page 7

Miner Wildcats Spread

SOUTH AFRICA, September 3 — Twelve thousand miners have shut the Gold Fields mine, following their brothers at Lonmin. They're demanding a wage hike to \$1,500 a month. And this may be "only the tip of the iceberg" as "labor unrest" spreads across the iron ore fields and other vital mineral mines.

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