

CHALLENGE

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WORKERS' UNITY ANSWERS BOSSES' DISASTER



Workers in Long Island protest against Long Island Power Authority (LIPA).

Capitalism has just dealt the U.S. working class two major blows: Hurricane Sandy and Barack Obama's re-election as president. While the U.S. ruling class is ever ready to allocate trillions of dollars for wars to preserve its profits and oil dominance in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia, it has refused to spend a dime on seawalls to prepare for storms like Sandy, not to mention Katrina in New Orleans or Ike in Texas.

The system's profit-driven lack of preparation for the latest storm, fueled by profit-driven global warming, killed more than a hundred U.S. workers and made life miserable for hundreds of thousands more without power, water and food along the East Coast. Sandy also devastated the Caribbean, especially Haiti, where racist U.S. bosses have concentrated on milking profits from poverty-level

wages following the 2010 earthquake. Their ruthless neglect left those workers wide open to the devastation of Sandy.

In the hurricane's wake, the bosses brought militarization rather than relief to ravaged black and Latino neighborhoods. Meanwhile, Obama — who managed the crisis by landing Marines in New York and New Jersey — won four more years to spread war and fascism abroad and at home on behalf of his U.S. imperialist backers. The only storms those rulers care about are World War III and its deadly preludes.

The Exxon Mobil/JPMorgan Chase wing of U.S. finance capital backed war-maker Obama's re-election. These owners of U.S.-based, globally oriented companies face in-

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COMMUNISTS COLLECTIVELY CONQUERED NATURE AND SMASHED FASCISM

There's a sharp contrast between how capitalist bosses ignore and create massive threats to the working class and that which was accomplished during the Russian and Chinese communist-led revolutions, both of which put workers' interests first. As the adjoining editorial points out, U.S. bosses left workers' homes, transportation, hospital care and food supplies completely unprepared to deal with hurricane Sandy's catastrophe.

However, in China under communist leadership, millions of workers were mobilized to construct dams to prevent the mighty Yangtze River from flooding working-class and agricultural areas, flooding that occurred annually under pre-revolutionary capitalist (and imperialist) rule and periodically wiped out millions of workers' homes and farms. Instead, the dams were used to generate electricity for the working class.

In addition, China's revolution also trained tens of thousands of "bare-foot doctors" in six-month courses to move across the countryside and treat and wipe out diseases that had plagued China for centuries. The working class was organized to serve itself, as tens of millions of women were freed from virtual slavery, prostitution and opium addiction which the British and French imperialists had used to exploit large sections of the population.

In the Soviet Union, massive dams — the Dnieprostroi, the largest on earth — were built not only to contain floods but also to generate electricity for the most rapid industrialization the world had ever seen throughout three 5-year plans. (As Britain's imperialist prime minister Winston Churchill acknowledged, "the Soviets went from the plow to the atom bomb in 30 years.") And when the Nazi invasion threatened these factories in the Western USSR, they were disassembled and moved a thousand miles eastward beyond the Ural Mountains to continue manufacturing the weapons of war needed to defeat the Hitler hordes and win World War II.

All these feats in China and the Soviet Union were achieved with the complete collective cooperation of the countries' working class and peasantry without the profit-driven motivation of capitalism. Unfortunately, as CHALLENGE has often pointed out, in both countries too much of the elements of capitalism were retained, overturning working-class rule and reverting back to full-blown capitalism. So now many of the advances have been wiped out. Profit-driven medical care, prostitution, drug addiction and other features of capitalism have returned. It remains for another group of communists to learn from both these achievements and mistakes and establish a lasting worker-run society completely free of capitalist ideology.✱

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

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Obama Re-election, Sandy: Double Storm Strikes Working Class

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creasing competition from China's rising capitalists and a resurgent Russia for control of worldwide markets and resources. Using armed force to protect U.S. domination of Middle East and North African oil and gas, especially in Saudi Arabia, has been Obama's top priority since day one of his first term.

On behalf of Exxon, he has broadened the U.S. war theater far beyond Iraq and Afghanistan to Libya, Somalia, Yemen and Pakistan. Next on Obama's hit list are Chinese and Russian proxies Syria and Iran — and, after them, quite likely, China and Russia themselves. He is already landing Marines in Australia and troops in the Philippines as U.S. rulers turn their eyes toward Asia.

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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Meanwhile, Obama has presided over massive cuts in wages. He has slashed newly hired workers' pay in half (part of his much-lauded bailout deal with GM and Chrysler) and has frozen federal workers' earnings. His policies have ravaged education, health, housing and other workers' needs in favor of trillion-dollar-plus funding of the U.S. war machine. Capitalism's New Depression sharpens both the Pentagon's scramble for cash and workers' crushing poverty.

Sandy approached New York City with predicted devastation to low-lying, working-class areas. But billionaire Mayor Bloomberg saved his imperialist allies big bucks by declaring mandatory evacuation of flood zones but not spending a nickel to carry it out. He refused to deploy the city's 5,900 transit buses when hundreds of thousands of workers, the great majority without cars, required relocation to higher ground. Many workers drowned. Thousands more still freeze and fester without heat, electricity or clean water. And they have become "criminals" for defying evacuation orders.

Mayor's Racism Hits Projects

In a further racist move to humiliate mostly black and Latino workers in devastated city projects, Bloomberg is distributing adult diapers to waterless project residents instead of fixing their plumbing. But in Lower Manhattan, home to U.S. capitalism's Wall Street, the bosses spared no effort or expense to rebuild exploded power stations, pump out vaults and repair thousands of miles of pipes and wires. The stock exchange lost only two days of trading. But workers in neighborhoods like Brooklyn's Red Hook and Queens' Far Rockaway have no basic services well into the third week after the storm.

In anticipation of broader wars and police-state fascism, Obama, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg have used the storm to justify a martial law crackdown far tighter than the one after 9/11. Workers traveling from Brooklyn to Manhattan had to wait for hours in holding pens before boarding buses. They still face gasoline rationing. More significantly, Marines have joined the National Guard in patrolling streets in Brooklyn, Queens, and Hoboken, New Jersey.

It used to be that relatively integrated National Guard "citizen soldiers," under the command of local governors, would assist in disasters. But in and around New York, racist rulers at the highest Pentagon levels are deploying mainly white Marines, trained to kill Arabs and Asians, against potentially rebellious black and Latino workers. In some blacked-out areas, residents are restricted at night to their apartments. They lack light, heat and water while cops and troops patrol the streets.

Obama's Latest Surge — The Marines

While terrorizing our class, Obama's surge of Marines into New York warms the hearts of racist killer cops and their ruling-class patrons. The Obama-boosting New York Times featured triumphal, D-Day-style photos of Marines taking the beach at burnt-out Breezy Point, Queens, the guarded, gated, most segregated enclave in New York.

Meanwhile, undocumented workers face double suffering. Ineligible for FEMA assistance, they may be used at below the minimum wage to clear devastated areas, like what happened in post-Katrina New Orleans, Louisiana.

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.

U.S. Military's Sexism Reigns Supreme

The sexual escapade of Obama's top general, David Petraeus, is just the tip of the iceberg of the sexism that permeates the U.S. military. While Petraeus's affair with his biographer Paula Broadwell was sex among consenting adults, outright sexual assault on women in the armed forces is par for the course among senior officers. When senior officers see a married general having an affair with a woman, they figure it's open season for them to attack enlisted women in the military.

The New York Times (Nov. 2) cited Defense Department figures reporting "that about one in three women in the military has been sexually assaulted." The Department Secretary, Leon Panetta, "acknowledged this year that the number of sexual assaults...is probably far higher than the official statistics show, because so many episodes are covered up...[and] that the actual figures could be as high as 19,000."

Much of this has begun to come to light after Sgt. Jennifer Smith, who has performed administrative work for 17 years for an Air Force squadron, filed a formal complaint after having "endured repeated sexual assaults," accusing the Air Force of "turning a blind eye to pervasive sexual attacks against women." According to the Veterans Administration, "About 20 percent of female veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan...experienced some form of sexual assault."

Sgt. Smith said she decided to speak out "because senior officers were involved or appeared to tolerate" these sexist acts. Another Sgt., Kimberly Davis, who filed a lawsuit against the Air Force "said that after she reported being raped, officers on [Stewart Air National Guard] base...conspired to cover up the episode." The lawyer for both women said that since last year "more than 500 additional women...have contacted her," saying they were "victims of sexual assault."

These attacks on women are no isolated incidents. It is a symptom of the intrinsic sexism in the military, which stems from the the sexist nature of capitalism — a system breeding the oppression of women and the gendered division of workers. Workers, men and women, must fight these assaults with a vision to win all workers to communism.✪

All of this adds up to the rulers expanding their social control over the working class. While they make no plans to ward off "natural" catastrophes, the bosses use these opportunities to exert control over workers and pave the way for more open fascism. In hard-hit cities like New Orleans and Galveston, Texas hundreds of thousands of workers — most of them black and Latino — have lost their jobs and homes and are never coming back. Housing projects and private homes are not being rebuilt. The ruling class treats workers like garbage, to be thrown away when they cost too much to sustain.

On the opposite side, workers' collective answers to Sandy shows how working-class control of society would both deal constructively with weather disasters and also plan to prevent widespread damage in the first place. (See box on the Soviet Union and China and its former communist leadership, page 1.) This bodes well for our class and the Progressive Labor Party's goal of replacing the bosses' profit-minded dictatorship with workers' rule.

"In the void left by the slow and inadequate institutional emergency response, improvised relief networks sprang up. Neighbors helped one another."

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Haiti: Students Rise Up vs. Racist Killer Cops

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, November 12 — Up to 700 angry students from campuses of the State University of Haiti, up in arms over the racist police killing of Damaël D'Haiti, a young law student two nights ago, took to the streets here today, confronting armed police, some in an armored tank.

Starting at 8:00 AM, several hundred students assembled at the Law School, chanting that the killer cop be brought to justice, and demanding quality education. They marched to all the nearby campuses, gathering more students at each one, effectively shutting down many. At each corner along the route, they burned tires and set up roadblocks. Traffic in the crowded downtown area was paralyzed for much of the day.

After several more campus stops, including a private university next to the Central Police Station, they called on those students to join the march. When they returned to the Law School they were met by a squad car with about six police (PNH). The cops — armed to the teeth — tried to block their way but were vastly outnumbered and were forced to retreat.

The students moved on to the Police Commissioner's Office, demanding that the killer cop not be moved from that station. (The PNH moves "troublesome" cops around in order to hide and protect them.) Back at the Law School, angrier than ever, the students faced off against six MINUSTAH (UN occupiers of Haiti since 2004 to suppress such actions), squad cars and an armored tank.

When the tank advanced on the students, the cops were met with a hail of stones the students had placed in the streets to block traffic. Then they retreated a few yards. When the tank moved forward, the students responded with more stones, then retreated again.

The battle continued for hours as students moved from school to school. This spontaneous outbreak developed into a more organized display of anguish and class hatred. Numerous stu-

dents took leadership, many under the leadership of the Progressive Labor Party. Young but seasoned comrades worked side by side with new, emerging leaders. Flyers were produced, decisions were discussed and carried out. Plans were made for mass participation in the teachers' strike the following day. Students spoke about revolution. A Party study group is in the works.

What provoked this outrage? Saturday night, at a concert at the Law School, the cop, employed by the nearby University Hospital and wearing civilian clothes, entered the campus illegally. (Haiti's Constitution bars armed police from entering campuses.)

When the concert ended, there was a little ruckus among a few students, which quickly died down. At that point, the cop shot into the crowd, hitting Damaël in the face. He died immediately. (We met with a student who had witnessed the killing.) The cop ran from the school and tried to hide back in the hospital. However, some students followed and caught and held him until cops from a nearby station arrived and took him into custody.

On Sunday, the news spread quickly. Hundreds of students assembled at the Law School to de-



Students barricaded the downtown streets with tree trunks and chairs from their campuses.

cide on an action. Meanwhile, the Police Commissioner pompously announced that the cop "could not be guilty" because Hospital police don't carry guns. "What does that prove?" the students countered; the cop carried an illegal gun!

The students decided to mobilize citywide and called for joint action for this morning. Leaflets were readied for distribution at all campuses.

Students in Haiti have a long history of militant fight-back. They have vowed to continue this struggle against racism and for justice for their fallen comrade.

Young black and Latino workers and students worldwide are considered cannon fodder for the bosses' wars and at the point of racist cops' guns from Port-au-Prince to New York City and beyond. This struggle is part of an international one against racist police brutality in a decaying capitalist system. It will surely lay the foundation to spoil the bosses' plans for continued imperialist wars.✊

Sandy Shelter Shock: Capitalism's Murderous Dysfunction

It has been a day of horror and some inspiration, spending six hours volunteering as a doctor at a Sandy relief shelter in the Bronx, NY. I had signed up with the NY State medical volunteer corps a week before, but they were demanding minimum 12-hour shifts, making it impossible for a working MD to participate. Only now, after a week, was it possible to make one's own hours.

When I arrived, I saw the vast floor covered with wall-to-wall cots, including many children and the elderly, as well as a wall of cages for pet cats and dogs. People lined up to see me in small numbers, since no general announcement of my availability was made.

Of those I spoke to, nearly all came from Far Rockaway, 24 miles away, with a few from the burned-out houses of Breezy Point, Queens. Some had lived in Redfern public housing, 14 buildings where there is still no heat or electricity. Others were renters in low-lying homes or apartments and had lost all their possessions.

Since the storm they had been moved three times, from Queens College to York College to this shelter in the Franklin Armory in the Bronx. This afternoon, they were suddenly told they'd be moving again today, but no one would tell them where. As one elderly white woman said, "they treat us like criminals, not victims." They had not had access to medical care for the last five days.

I saw patients at my table in full public view, with no way to do anything except take a blood pressure or listen to a chest (identical to my experience in villages in occupied Palestine.) Everyone had lists or bottles of prescriptions that had run out, for high blood pressure, diabetes, or mental health. Of the six insulin-requiring diabetics, only one had been told that there was a refrigerator where her insulin could be kept.

One elderly diabetic, whose Medicaid had been cut off, had no way of paying for her medication. After receiving no help from the shelter staff, a young volunteer lawyer managed to find a pharmacy three miles away that would fill her prescription, but there was no way to pick it up. Two others needed to go to the hospital for evaluation. But since there was no transportation, an ambulance had to be called for one, and I provided taxi fare for another. A social worker was scheduled to come in two days, when these residents would be gone.

There were two large cases of medical equipment, over-the-counter medicines, and some dressings, left by some agency. However, patients in need of more advanced supplies, like nebulizers or apnea machines, had no access to them. As I was getting ready to leave, passing around Motrin, Tylenol and what CHALLENGES I had, more patients asked to be seen.

While all this was going on, the place was packed with politicians,

representatives of the Salvation Army in fancy dress, and a Turkish news agency. I demanded to speak to someone who could actually solve particular problems. Eventually I got filmed telling Scott Stringer, Manhattan's Borough President, that there had to be a general policy that insurance companies could not refuse to pay for medications being refilled before their "due date," if they had been lost in the storm. Not one of the bigwigs was able to offer any solution to simple problems like transport to the hospital or pharmacy.

The most helpful person I spoke to was a victim, Ed, who was still working at his job delivering phone books. He was trying to solve everyone's particular problems, keep people informed, and challenging those in charge. He described how his son had been assigned to a school in Brooklyn, although they lived in the Bronx. They took him there to register with all their belongings in tow, since no secure storage is provided.

The next day the Department of Education (DOE) told him to switch his son to a school in the Bronx, and now they are moving again. The DOE threatens parents with ACS (child removal services) intervention if their child does not show up in school.

Ed also explained that if a family is moved to a hotel, they are given \$2,000 to spend, which may last for 10 or so days. They can then look for an apartment, and if they find one and qualify for FEMA assistance, they

may stay for 3-18 months. The \$2,000 hotel allowance was deducted from the rental assistance. There is no assurance that most will be able to find a temporary or permanent residence.

Another family told of being awarded a FEMA grant which could not be directly deposited because of their bank's malfunction. It was sent to their abandoned address. FEMA then refused to stop payment and re-deposit the amount, saying the family would have to wait for the check to be returned.

Everyone in the shelter, black, Latino or white, was poor. It was clear that capitalism does not wish to take care of the working class. Racism is used to divide us in neighborhoods, schools and work, to super-exploit black and Latino workers, and to make invisible, the suffering during natural and man-made disasters. In this shelter, residents were getting along together, but their overwhelming individual problems and their constant motion made it difficult for them to protest.

Ed, like many others, agreed the system has to go. They see the murderous dysfunction of capitalism and its servant politicians. Many took CHALLENGE and we will get to know them and win them to fight for revolutionary change. We need to fight for a new world organized around workers' needs, not the profits of a few.

Red Doc

Union's Racist Sellout Attacks Students, Teachers

Newark, NJ October 20 — Before the dust could even settle from the Chicago teachers' strike, national union boss Randi Weingarten and Newark Teachers' Union (NTU) boss Joe Del Grosso were quick to sell out the education workers and students here in Newark. The contract, which took over two years to work out, will give the capitalists and their puppets (like Superintendent Cami Anderson) easier access to implement their fascist rule.

While there are members of the teachers' union organizing a "no" vote against the contract, the ruling class is putting their soldiers in line to make sure it goes through. Two of the biggest provisions of the contract are the two-tier wage system and the "Election to Work" agreements that teachers in closed schools are forced to sign to keep their jobs.

Two-Tier Wage System

The biggest part of the contract that has drawn outrage from union members is the two-tier wage system. This scale caps teachers at lower wages. It also refuses to recognize the difference between teachers with a BA, MA, and PhD, thus making the argument that additional certifications have no impact on how well they teach. Teachers can earn "bonuses" for being rated highly effective.

The union continues to push this merit scale. This will create a division among workers by putting them on two different scales and giving out a limited amount of bonuses to particular teachers. However, as we have seen in areas like Baltimore and other places, after this merit pay system is implemented the number of teachers rated highly effective will definitely drop.

Many teachers at the contract presentation voiced these concerns, something that the union leadership completely ignores. One of the main goals of the ruling class is to lower the cost of education as it prepares for wider, larger wars in the future.

Turnaround Schools and 'Election to Work Agreement'

One of the most unsettling aspects of the new contract is the union's willingness to allow the Superintendent to close down 30 schools in the next three years. That is almost 50% of the Newark schools! When confronted with opposition to allow these closings, Del Grosso said, "Well, she can close as many as she wants, we are limiting her."

Even more troubling than the complete cooperation of the union leadership in closing schools is the "Election to work" agreement that teachers in these schools will be forced to sign if they want to keep a job. Any teacher slated for one of these "turnaround" schools will have to sign an agreement that will override many of the rights that union members have fought for in the past. According to the contract, "the limit on the number of subject or content areas that a teacher may be assigned to teach shall not apply...The limit on the number of classes, consecutive assignments, preparation periods, and room assignments...shall not apply." This is what the bosses would like the rest of the schools to be like.

Clearly this hurts both teach-

ers and students. These schools, which are very similar to charter schools, can work a teacher for two or three years until they are burnt out and leave the education system. This can give the bosses greater control over teachers since many will not stay long enough to get tenure (which will be a thing of the past as well). They will be so busy keeping their heads above water that they won't be able to organize and fight back even if they wanted to. It will save the ruling class millions in workers' wages by having teachers stay for only a few years rather than making it a lifetime career.

Racist Attack on Students

In a school system that is 96% black and Latino, Newark's reforms are more similar than different to the ones in Chicago, New York and other cities. Students suffer because most of these teachers will not have as much room to fight for student rights.

Teachers will not be as effective because of the different content areas that they are responsible for as opposed to becoming more proficient in particular subject areas. And the community of the school will lose out because of the increased turnover of teachers. This makes perfect sense for the ruling class, which does not care about "educating" these students to understand the world, but simply to teach students obedience and basic skills to work menial jobs.

Preparing for fascism and war

As the U.S. ruling class prepares to fight larger, more intense wars against its rivals, education will become increasingly important. The disciplining of the future working class to accept low wage jobs or unemployment as well as to give their lives in the bosses' wars will depend heavily on the teachers' reduced ability to fight back as exemplified by this contract.

This will also save the bosses millions of dollars in wages, giving them more wiggle room to spend money in other areas on the war front (re-industrialization for producing war materials and overseas spending) and allow capitalists to accumulate profits.

Contract Shows Need to Fight For Communism

This struggle has opened up the door for a student-teacher-parent alliance. Many parents have been passing out flyers to teachers urging them to vote no. Discussions in the school have become much more political as well. In one elementary school two workers were talking about the implications of the contract. One worker organizing against the contract spoke to a group of workers on the need to organize for communist revolution in the long term while fighting against the contract now. Some of the teachers were skeptical.

As the days went by and more information came out about that contract, one of the teachers put a note in the comrades' mailbox at school saying, "You're right, we do need a revolution."

ON STRIKE!



PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, November 13 — Sign reads "Brooklyn to Port-au-Prince: Professors Unite to Smash Racism!"

About 12,000 students and workers took the streets for a two-day teachers' strike! The entire demonstration was carried by the energy and vitality of the students. The international solidarity was vibrant. We stopped in front of schools calling on students and teachers to join the march. It was militant, and resulted in a battle between the MINUSTAH troops and students. (See next issue for full story.)

While it may be jumping the gun to believe that workers can be won to the overthrow of capitalism in a week, this shows that workers are more open to our politics. Those that argue for limiting our fight to reforming capitalism are starting to see the limits.

In the 1960s and 70s many courageous teachers in Newark fought hard and went to jail for the reforms that other teachers enjoyed. Now that the struggle has died down, the bosses have been working overtime to take these reforms away. This is

not just happening in Newark but worldwide. The only way to guarantee that workers control their future and create schools that will allow students to reach their fullest potential is through the building of communism. Therefore, we will continue to work with teachers, students, and parents to fight the bosses' attack, expose the class nature of capitalism, and link this to the need for a communist revolution. There is no other choice.☺

EL SALVADOR: PUTTING COMMUNIST IDEAS INTO PRACTICE

SAN SALVADOR, September 23 — It's everyone's job to put communist ideas into practice

The process of building a base for these ideas is hard but not an impossible task for each PL'er. We feel that the lack of commitment to establishing a collective that can plan and guarantee the accomplishment of the tasks assigned to each member explains the slow growth of PLP in El Salvador.

Our comrades have a large membership; we could have three zonal collectives and one leadership collective in charge of planning areas of concentration for each member. In this way, we can guarantee that communist theory and practice remain primary. This could also help us deal with some contradictions amongst our membership.

We are organizing among a working class not yet ready to believe in the need for a party, but that needs to find an alternative to fight against the oppression that's suffocating and destroying it. The working class is tired of all the lies that the bosses and their associated politicians push. It's urgently necessary to take advantage of the failures of the FMLN (National Liberation Front Farabundo Marti) government

Inter-Imperialist Rivalry

Inter imperialist rivalry is also played-out in poor countries. So-called leftist bosses play a dirty role, deceiving workers, trying to make us believe that the Chinese economic model is better, when it's just more of the same. The cooperatives that are being organized in indigenous and working-class regions aren't designed to improve our lives and build class consciousness, or to foster collectivism. The support that the bosses are giving to some phony FMLN leaders is designed to create the false idea that some bosses are not so bad, but that's a lie. Under the capitalist system there are no good bosses; they are all bad for the workers.

We must build collectives to improve our lives, and build solidarity and the awareness that as city or rural workers we can, in fact, transform this society — not to replace one boss by another, but to eliminate all bosses who have caused so much suffering to the working class.☺

Murder, Inc.

Profit System Creates Global Warming

There have been over 120 reported deaths from Hurricane Sandy in the U.S., with another 100 or more in the Caribbean countries, the majority in Haiti, a reflection of the worst racist oppression in the Western Hemisphere. Sandy is the largest hurricane on record — over 1,000 miles in diameter — though it did not have the highest winds recorded.

In the U.S., tens of thousands were displaced by destruction of their homes, while in Nigeria in West Africa, the worst flooding in half a century has displaced more than two million people over the last few months and killed hundreds, with the figure still climbing. The overflow of the Niger River, the third largest in Africa, has mixed sewage with fresh water and brought crocodiles, snakes, and hippos into people's homes. Are these exceptionally destructive events just a coincidence, or is there a common cause?

It is estimated — as only a capitalist system will do — that Sandy may cost over \$50 billion. By capitalist reasoning, the many deaths take a back seat to the monetary losses.

It is estimated — as only a capitalist system will do — that Sandy may cost over \$50 billion. Some costs will be paid by insurance companies and other capitalists, but a majority will fall on millions of workers. It is the second most costly U.S. weather event in recent history, second only to Hurricane Katrina's more than \$100 billion in damages. No other event comes close. By capitalist reasoning, the many deaths in both the U.S. and Nigeria take a back seat to the monetary losses.

Not 'Freak Natural Happenings'

The capitalist media are slightly more willing on this occasion than in the past to link the catastrophe to global warming. They usually describe extremely violent and destructive weather events as freak natural happenings, but as even Gov. Cuomo of New York pointed out, horrible events that used to happen once a century are now happening every other year.

This makes it harder for the capitalist media to hide the connection between these events and global warming. They still try hard to do so, or at the very least avoid talking in this context about a solution that could make a difference, namely getting rid of fossil fuels altogether (coal, oil, natural gas). Fossils are fueling not only economies, but also the global warming that produces warmer air and warmer oceans that, in turn, produce faster evaporation and immensely greater amounts of rain. But the rain only falls in certain places, robbing other places of moisture and leaving behind desertification and drought.

The accelerated melting of the Arctic Sea ice (as well as land-based glaciers all over the earth) due to the increase in heat-trapping greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels created a high pressure area over the North Atlantic. This prevented Sandy from moving eastward, as hurricanes usually do, instead sending it crashing into the eastern shore of the U.S. While the devastation was centered on coastal states, the winds and rain were felt as far away as the Midwest with gigantic waves on some of the Great Lakes, mimicking Sandy's Atlantic storm surge that raised the sea level almost 14 feet in New York City.

In addition to wind-caused damage, many burst natural gas pipelines in New Jersey and elsewhere caused fires that burned hundreds of homes, and all their contents. Because of downed power lines, gasoline was not available even though it was stored underground at thousands of filling stations. As many as eight million homes and businesses lost access to electricity, causing food spoilage and other damage and leaving people to freeze in the dark.

So it seems that these fossil fuels are both dangerous and unreliable in a pinch. But since Nigeria is a vast source of oil profits and therefore a target of imperialist rivalry, workers there will still suffer worsening imperialist exploitation and oppression

in the international competition to obtain even more of these fossil fuels.

Communist Dialectics Gives Answers

Only dialectics, which is the key scientific tool communists use to understand the world and to describe it, makes this transition from quantitative to qualitative changes a central part of its approach to understanding everything in the world. Such ever-present transformations of quantitative changes into qualitative changes can, and do, take place over seconds, years, or even millennia. But the atmospheric changes brought about by GHGs, emitted relentlessly by all capitalist economies, have entered a phase that is taking place over a few decades. Extreme weather events, particularly where they haven't happened before, are only the tip of the melting iceberg.

Other expected accelerations include permanent rise in sea level. For example, "normal" sea level at lower Manhattan has risen a foot in the past 100 years, and is expected to rise by at least another two feet in the next 70 years. With rivers flooding here and droughts persisting there, killer heat waves and home-destroying wildfires, migration of forest-destroying insects farther from the equator, desertification and consequent food shortages, many other effects of global warming will occur. These things are discussed fully in our essay on global warming in the Winter 2010 issue of THE COMMUNIST at www.plp.org.

Communist revolution is another example of quantitative change becoming qualitative: not changing the bosses' system a little, but overturning it entirely, with its profits and competition. And as masses of workers, students, and soldiers in the U.S., Nigeria, and around the world swell the ranks of PLP — a quantitative change — sooner or later will turn into a qualitative change: from capitalist tyranny into a world wide egalitarian communist society run by the workers under the leadership of their communist party, PLP.

Until this occurs, capitalism's many tragic outcomes will multiply without limit. Neither Obama, Romney, nor Nigeria's President Jonathan will make any difference in this situation. Only the workers everywhere, through mass collective action from New Jersey to Nigeria, can do that. ☸

Workers' Power Needed to Conquer Storms

continued from page 2

other" (Village Voice, 11/7/12). While police arrested volunteer water distributors as "looters," and troops grudgingly dispensed meager Army food rations, workers shared real meals with one another. They cooked on sidewalk and rooftop grills and at churches and community centers they took over (see letter on page 6). Workers, not cops or Marines, organized water-hauling brigades to bring a semblance of decency to those without plumbing.

Our Party's members were out in the streets, in the projects and the hospitals, delivering food, water and clothing to those who had lost everything. PL teachers organized their students, in solidarity with their parents, to distribute aid to the stricken. PL doctors administered medical assistance to workers bereft of needed medicine. (See page 3.)

Glimpse of Communism

Imagine an entire society organized and run on the principle of workers tending to workers' needs. Our Party understands that it will take a revolution to achieve it. One of the biggest obstacles to our class's seizing power for itself is the trap of electoral politics. More than 62 million people, most of them workers, voted for Obama. They believed, against all evidence, that he would bring progress and improve their lives. But Obama's vicious suppression of the working class in his first four years and in Sandy's aftermath proves that he



will continue to serve war-bent imperialists.

Progressive Labor Party calls on all of its members and friends to go to the devastated areas with material aid and political aid, as well. We need to use CHALLENGE to point out how a communist society, run by and for the working class through collective action, can overcome any and

all problems workers face.

Once profits and bosses — and the racism, sexism and poverty they create — have been eliminated, the working class can conquer any storm. ☸

LETTERS

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

Sandy's Real Story: Workers Helping Workers

In Brooklyn, Occupy Wall Street members have now created Occupy Sandy. Two churches have become drop-off locations for supplies and gathering points for volunteers. I reported there Saturday, November 10, with my car.

Volunteers piled in and we followed a truck loaded with supplies to a distribution location in Staten Island, which was amazing. It was a small restaurant that had survived the storm. The owners had re-opened as soon as they could, using generators. They planned to keep cooking and feeding people for free until their food ran out. After two weeks, it's still running! Supplies and volunteers pour in every day.

As we walked through the devastated area, the sight of all the volunteers was inspiring. Equally so were the local workers who had set up grills and were cooking and distributing food door-to-door. This is a mainly white, working-class neighborhood. These were not fancy beachfront homes. They were modest ones, many that were originally just summer cottages. The destruction is massive.

On the other hand, we never saw a single government agency there to provide relief, nor a Red Cross. Sanitation workers were there with massive equipment clearing debris, and as well as one National Guard team with a truck. Otherwise the only government presence was cops, both NYPD and Military Police.

As it got closer to dusk, the few trucks left and the cop presence increased. The message couldn't be clearer: there will be no relief except that which comes from the working class itself. This is an enormous challenge to the Party and we must work much harder to meet it.

Our class brothers and sisters deserve no less.

Inspired Comrade

Politics Raises Friendship to the Highest Level

Sometimes we underestimate the importance of the whole range of our friendships, or at least I do. I tend to separate them into personal/social or political camps and then fail to see how they may intersect.

I spent several weeks in Haiti last summer. Part of the time I stayed with some close personal friends from my hometown who own a house in Haiti. I consider them loose supporters of PLP, maybe really just supporters of my work. While at their house, I met a number of their close friends. We talked about a wide range of things, but not my politics.

I returned to Haiti last week and was invited to meet with a group of union teachers from the same town where I spent last summer. I called one of my new acquaintances in that town. He happens to be an industrial worker and member of a union allied with the teachers, and invited him to attend the meeting.

Lo and behold, not only did he come in response to my last-minute invitation, but also he brought a retired union teacher.

They participated and heard not only the anger and militancy of the teachers and messages of international solidarity (which was noted to be in the great tradition of left movements worldwide) but also the solidarity of local communist students.



GREECE — As part of general strikes all over Europe, protester puts the boot on bosses' austerity.

I made sure both friends had a copy of DÉFI, the local edition of CHALLENGE. On the ride back to the capital that night, we made plans to follow up: me with my friends at home and our comrades with the workers in this town.

When we dip our toes into the water, and put forward our Party's line — fight against the ruling class and all of its rotten ideas, and lead struggles in the interest of workers everywhere — our social friends can turn into our political friends.

I don't know where these particular friendships will lead, but I am certain we are on the right track.

MLS

Storm Losses Were Not 'Natural'

I am retired from teaching now, but my Degree is Environmental Health Science. For the past 25 years, climatologists have argued NYC was overdue for a storm and storm surge of the magnitude of Sandy.

Global warming only increases the likelihood storms like this will occur more frequently and with greater intensity.

Yet after 25 years of conferences, studies and recommendations for pro-active government responses, Republicans and Democrats alike have done virtually nothing.

Prima Facie evidence: the new South Ferry Station — basically at sea level — where salt water poured in until it was lapping up to the top steps like the entrance to Davey Jones locker. It should have been built to a level that resists such floods. Nor should the Mayor who wraps himself in the mantle of an environmentalist be spared.

Storms are natural disasters but the tragic losses of the past week, in lives and property, are man-made. Like the leaders of a developing country wallowing in indifference and indecision, the political leaders in our industrial and financial capitalist state wasted 25 years doing nothing in response to warnings and solutions provided by engineers, scientists and activists.

It's time for the press to stop giving hero awards to politicians like the Mayor and Governor and celebrate first responders and the teacher volunteers, nurses and others who manned the evacuation centers.

On a personal note, my partner put in over

70 hours as a nurse this week at Wadleigh high school. The working class came through in this crisis; they deserve better leadership and more power to handle the next crisis.

"Philosophers have hitherto only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it." Karl Marx 1847.

Retired Comrade

Most Valuable Player?

Individualism is promoted under capitalism. The capitalists like to point out one key person even if it's within a team effort. For example, the Most Valuable Play (MVP) award for the 2012 World Series was given to the San Francisco Giant's catcher because he hit three home runs in the first game and batted .500 for the series. Yet he didn't score or drive in a run in the last three games of the four-game series.

But the pitching staff (10 players) gave up only one run (plus two worthless runs) in game 1, no runs in games 2 and 3 and three runs in game 4. You're practically guaranteed to win three or four games when you allow an average of less than one meaningful run per game.

All 10 of the pitchers participated in this performance, but the MVP is designed for one person, not a group effort. The MVP (and other similar awards) reinforces a capitalist outlook that the individual is more important than the group.

In a communist society, sports would be based on cooperation first and competition second and the contribution of all participants would be enjoyed by their teammates and other interested people.

Everyone would participate in sports for the exercise and camaraderie. Even today, when former professional athletes are asked what they miss about the game, they often say it's the camaraderie of the locker room. That will be the foundation of the society we fight for: camaraderie among all workers-athletes.

A communist fan

Sacco and Vanzetti: Heroic Fighters Against the Ruling Class

"All my life I had struggled to rid the earth of the rich man's crimes."

— "Two Good Arms" by PL singers
Revolution Disc 2

The graphic novel *Lives of Sacco and Vanzetti* by Rick Geary dramatically presents the case of two Italian immigrants who were arrested for a 1920 murder and robbery. Nicola Sacco, a shoe-maker, and Bartolemo Vanzetti, a fish peddler, both pleaded innocent and after seven agonizing years of controversy were finally executed. The trial attracted international attention because the real reasons for it was to carry on racist attacks on immigrants. The two men were anarchists who fought for workers rights and supported socialism.

The 1917 Russian Revolution had caused panic among capitalist rulers all around the world. A Seattle general strike in February 1919 showed U.S. capitalists the strength of the working class with radical leadership.

In November 1919, a fire bomb went off at the house of Attorney General Palmer in Washington, D.C. and bombs also exploded in Philadelphia, Cleveland and New York. Palmer used the bombs planted by a small group of anarchists to conduct raids to deport immigrants who were political radicals and socialists. About 10,000 immigrant workers were deported as a result of the Palmer Raids. These "Red Scare" attacks were led by a 24-year-old Department of Justice official, J Edgar Hoover!

Vanzetti learned that a friend, the editor of an anarchist newspaper, had been arrested and detained by the Justice Department. Two months later, his friend, still in custody of the Justice Department, mysteriously fell out of a 14th floor window and died. After hearing the news, Sacco and

Vanzetti decided to warn their comrades to get rid of any anarchist literature and stay out of sight.

The police learned that they were meeting with two anarchist friends, but the cops arrived too late to arrest all four anarchists. Only after seeing Sacco and Vanzetti on a street car, were they arrested on the flimsiest excuses because of the Red Scare. Their trial was a thinly disguised frame-up that relied more on racist and political attacks on Sacco and Vanzetti as immigrant radicals than on any direct evidence.

Widespread hatred for capitalism and substantial support for revolutionary responses around the world led to many demonstrations and rebellions in support of Sacco and Vanzetti by workers in Germany, France, Switzerland, Portugal, South Africa, Mexico, Argentina, Japan and Australia. There were fewer worker demonstrations demanding the release of Sacco and Vanzetti in the United States, possibly due to the intimidation of Atty. Gen. Palmer and the Red Scare raids deporting immigrant workers.

In March, 1927, Felix Frankfurter, a Harvard Law Professor and later a Supreme Court Justice, wrote an article in the Atlantic Monthly discussing the blatant prejudice of the trial including:

- 1) The suspects were identified without a lineup;
- 2) The jurors were rounded up late at night;
- 3) The prosecution concealed an exonerating witness;
- 4) Atmosphere around the Red Scare and armed guards in the courthouse caused bias;
- 5) Trial Judge Thayer made comments that Sacco was not patriotic;

6) The jury foreman made a statement before the trial that he already thought Sacco and Vanzetti were guilty; and

7) The stolen money was never recovered.

Sacco and Vanzetti's case was appealed to the Supreme Court. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes refused to hear the case, replying, "We practice law and not justice." The ruling class did not care about railroad workers — they only cared about keeping workers from rebelling.

It was not until August 26, 1977, fifty years after their executions, that Governor Michael Dukakis stated the Sacco and Vanzetti were unfairly tried and convicted and "any stigma or disgrace should forever be removed from the names of Nicola Sacco and Bartolemo Vanzetti," but Dukakis also never proclaimed their innocence.

Anarchists, leftists, socialists and communists all around the world have held up Sacco and Vanzetti as martyrs to the cause of fighting for workers' rights and against capitalism. This graphic novel is easy to read and will be interesting to many middle school and high school students. It is well worth reading and discussing, especially about the racist and anti-working class nature of the laws and courts of the capitalist rulers.

Fighting against capitalism and racism and fighting for workers' rights frightens the ruling class. This case shows the ruling class will use all of its state power to crush workers' rebellions. Only a communist working-class revolution will smash the bosses' injustice system and bring a real, if belated, recognition of the brave workers who have given their lives in the fight against capitalism. ☸

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

Unemployment rise = suicide rise

NYT, 11/5 — The rate of suicide in the United States rose sharply during the first few years since the start of the recession....

The rate between 2008 and 2010 increased four times faster than it did in the eight years before the recession....

The finding was not unexpected. Suicide rates often spike during economic downturns, and recent studies of rates in Greece, Spain and Italy have found similar trends....

The research team linked the suicide rate to unemployment....Every rise of 1 percent in unemployment was accompanied by an increase in the suicide rate of roughly 1 percent....

No storm pay for poorest workers

NYT, 11/3 — Chantal Sainvilus, a home health aide in Brooklyn who makes \$10 an hour, does not get paid if she does not show up. So it is no wonder that she joined the thousands of others taking extreme measures to get to work this week....

...Many of the poorest New Yorkers faced the prospect of losing days, even a crucial week, of pay on top of the economic ground they have lost since the recession....

...And there are an increasing number of part-time and hourly workers, the type that safety net programs like unemployment [benefits] are not designed to serve.

Slavery thrives in modern times

GW, 8/31 — Facts about slavery:

- An estimated 27 million people live in forced bondage.
- Every year at least 700,000 people are traf-

ficked across borders and into slavery.

- About 300,000 children serve as child soldiers in 30 armed conflicts. Many female child soldiers are also forced into sexual slavery.

- The average price of a slave in the southern U.S. states in 1809 would be equivalent to \$40,000 in today's money. In 2009, the average price of a slave was \$90.

U.S. fights protesters by snooping

Other Words.org — If on cell phones you rely; Say hello to the FBI.

Does it matter that the federal government can track your cell phone at any moment of the day?....

...If you happen to march against prominent politicians, particularly on matters like war and peace,...heaven help you. [The] police mission... is to preserve order,...stifle protest, and protect elected leaders from embarrassment....

While corporate-owned media remain docile and rarely report on these issues....A new bumper sticker reads: "America, One Nation, Under Surveillance."

Stats lie on imprisoned blacks

NYT, 10/28 — ...Imprisoned black men aren't figured into statistics about the standing of African-Americans. The consequence...is an overstatement of black progress in education, employment, wages and voting participation....

If inmates were counted,...the black high school dropout rate would soar to 19 percent and the share of dropouts who are employed would plunge to 26 percent — far more dire than the statistics usually cited....

No rebound for the 'unemployable'

NYT, 11/2 — Economists warned that long-term unemployment could be transformed in the next few years into structural unemployment, meaning that the problem is not just too few jobs and too many job-seekers, but a large group of workers who no longer match employers' needs or are no longer considered employable....



That has been the experience of millions of workers....

Pushing bad loans on black homes

NYT, 10/15 — The American Civil Liberties Union is accusing Morgan Stanley of fueling the production of risky, expensive loans that targeted African-American borrowers.

In the lawsuit...the A.C.L.U. claims that Morgan Stanley is culpable for predatory loans made through the New Century Financial Corporation because the investment bank lent billions of dollars to New Century, a now-defunct subprime lender, and pressured it to make troublesome loans to African-American borrowers who could not afford them.

Banks con seniors into risky loans

NYT, 10/15 — The very loans that are supposed to help seniors stay in their homes are in many cases pushing them out....

Some lenders are aggressively pitching loans to seniors who cannot afford the fees associated with them, not to mention the property taxes and maintenance. Others are wooing seniors with promises that the loans are free money that can be used to finance long-coveted cruises, without clearly explaining the risks. Some widows are facing eviction after they say they were pressured to keep their name off the deed without being told that they could be left facing foreclosure after their husbands died.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Haiti's Cholera Epidemic

Breaking the Silence On A Racist Crime of KKKapitalism

Abridged and reprinted from a special issue of LE DÉFI, the local CHALLENGE in Haiti.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, October 28 — After the devastating 2010 earthquake a fragile Haiti was struck by a devastating cholera epidemic, brought in by the UN's "peacekeeping" force MINUSTAH.

The UN did not vaccinate these troops coming in from an area where cholera is endemic. The so-called "international community" (which gave us cholera) wants us to believe the earthquake caused this genocidal epidemic when in fact the earthquake had nothing to do with it. There is a deathly silence about cholera here. To this day, against all the scientific evidence, they refused to acknowledge their responsibility. Thousands among the oppressed class are dead, with many traumatized and in tears. If it is not eradicated soon, another wave of deaths will ensue because cholera is with us still and spreading.

It is a crime against the workers, peasants and students in Haiti, a small black population under the harsh, direct domination of U.S. imperialism. This is racism! The society in such countries is always under the imperialists' control. They are our real enemies.

Poverty and its Diseases: A Consequence of Capitalism

Poverty, hunger, and diseases like cholera stem from the domination and exploitation of the blood-sucking capitalist system. No capitalist state can ever stop driving people into extreme poverty, unemployment — and worse, death — under whatever form of rule the ruling class erects over the working class.

Once cholera established its rule here, it slaughtered many a family, and dumped into poverty many others who lost the relatives who could have helped them combat it. The authors of this evil are MINUSTAH, the UN and U.S. imperialism, joined to a capitalist state which is the tool of, and always defends, the bosses' interests. These merchants of death could produce no other result. It's a white sheet hiding a gaping wound. People will die by the thousands if we don't understand that the state does not function in workers' interests. We can't look for hope where there is none to be found.

The Cholera Campaign: Direct Action and International Solidarity

In mid-September, some comrades brought our revolutionary politics to a teachers' assembly just outside the capital, to connect cholera to the problems teachers are facing everywhere, and show how capitalism has created both. We wanted to prepare people for the revolutionary battle against the system itself if they lacked that perspective.

One comrade spoke about cholera awareness and then moved from a political analysis to mobilizing for the cholera campaign, linking problems of education to those of health. He noted that vaccination and ending cholera was right up there among the teachers' demands; that teachers belonged to the same class as the workers who were victims of cholera; and that capitalism was the root cause of all these problems.

While he spoke other comrades distributed cholera campaign flyers to the 100 teachers in the crowd, to a few journalists and others who came to listen. "What can you give us to do?" asked several teachers, showing their desire to join the campaign. Many quickly grabbed the flyers and everyone was reading them.

The comrade leading the meeting addressed the journalists about why ending cholera was one of the teachers' strike demands, how the epidemic was tied to the teacher's problems. "If the government does nothing, strike!" shouted those dis-



Students protest cholera in Haiti using a photo exhibit.

tributing the flyers, and the whole crowd chanted it loudly for the press to hear.

As some went to additional meetings, others stayed to continue the discussion. The campaign is moving ahead and all comrades must commit themselves to its success.

During the third week of October, there were many demonstrations against MINUSTAH and against cholera, organized by a coalition to drive out MINUSTAH and obtain reparations for cholera victims. Union and student activists participated and distributed cholera campaign flyers. Such direct action will continue.

We call on the solidarity of all our international friends engaged in popular struggles to force the Haitian state, the UN and all the criminals guilty of this genocide to be forced to root out cholera in every corner of the country. The Ministry of Public Health must establish: universal vaccination of all people in Haiti; well-equipped nation-wide treatment centers with well-trained health workers; and clean water and modern sanitation systems.

Fighting Cholera Means Fighting MINUSTAH

We demand that MINUSTAH leave Haiti, that they pay reparations to ALL their victims, and that they be punished under so-called human rights law. We must liberate the whole working class from this vicious occupation force, bandits with heavy weapons here to break our spirit and aid the reactionary ruling class and its government servants.

Their death squads massacred students and workers during the 2009 fight for the minimum wage. They don't just have their jackboots on the necks of the poor and on workers in the factories. Everyone knows how they've sexually assaulted young girls, women and men; stolen peasants' livestock; made innocent blood flow in the capital's slums until the earth became mud. Their atrocities in Cap Haïtien remind us of slavery days, hanging people as the colonialists did. In Ti Goave they fired on demonstrators and in Port Salut grossly assaulted a pregnant teenager and a young boy.

In Port-au-Prince they've fired on demonstrators as they did to the hunger protestors in 2008; entered university campuses — Social Sciences, the Ecole Normale and the School of the Arts — to kidnap students and smash or steal equipment. And then they brought cholera, leaving more than 7,500 dead and hospitalizing 300,000, besides killing us with bullets and tear gas.

The workers worldwide have been facing huge problems of health, unemployment and hunger. National and international rulers do nothing to end this epidemic. We call on everyone suffering these problems to take to the streets and force them to act. Students and teachers, workers, professionals, unemployed: let's rise up and march against cholera, against racism, against imperialist occupation. People everywhere have the right to live like human beings.

The fight against cholera is an international fight because it kills the working class internationally. That's why the petition of ECHO (End Cholera in Haiti Organization) is for all the world's workers. It's being circulated in Haiti, the U.S. and all over. One single international working class is signing it, against capitalism and all its diseases.

Oppressed of the world, wherever you are, join us to fight this bloody, devastating capitalism. Surely our future cannot be built on racism, sexism and disease. We have to abolish this profit-driven view of "difference" we call racism, invented by capitalists to justify their exploitation.

Our class must defend our own destiny and our very lives, now in danger of being snuffed out. Our just demands must be satisfied. Neither MINUSTAH, the UN nor the capitalist state can resolve the problems of the working class or bring peace to the world. The solution is once and for all to destroy this system that eats our class alive! It is only communism, rule by and for the working class, that can liberate us.☺

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