

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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Workers Worldwide



Japan



Mexico

INDICT RACIST BOSSES' COURTS AND COPS



Harlem



London

More Fightback Inside: From Los Angeles to Chicago to New York City — Fight Like Ferguson

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

OUR FIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, 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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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

U.S. Capitalism: Racist Murder, Inc.

Working-class outrage is mounting as the cops murder more and more Black workers. But U.S. rulers and their figureheads — from Barack Obama to Al Sharpton — are frantically trying to divert this anger away from its just target: the profit system. While racist violence hits Black workers hardest, it harms our entire class. State-sanctioned terror has propped up capitalism since the days of the slave trade. The super-exploitation of non-white workers nets the bosses super-profits (see box) and enables them to lower wages and living standards for all.

A recent editorial in the New York Times, the rulers’ leading mouthpiece, warned of the threat posed by the latest wave of anti-cop protests: “It shows once again that distrust of law enforcement presents a grave danger to the civic fabric of the United States” (11/25/14). Black rebels in Ferguson and all the Fergusons to come can give leadership to workers throughout the U.S., including the two million troops in the U.S. military. They can also inspire workers to resist racism and imperialism worldwide.

The only future capitalism holds for the working class, and especially for Black youth, is imperialist war, unemployment, poverty, sexism and racist killings. Capitalists use the anti-scientific concept of “racial differences” to divide us and weaken our potential for fighting back. Only communism offers a solution to the hell of the profit system. Only a communist society can serve the needs of our class by eliminating the bosses who exploit us and reap profits from our labor. That communist-led workers’ society is what Progressive Labor Party is fighting for.

In the wake of the police executions of Michael Brown, Akai Gurley, Eric Garner and Tamir Rice, the remedies pushed by the capitalist media and public officials ring hollow. Class enemies like Obama and long-time FBI informant Sharpton are calling for federal investigations. Yet the U.S. Justice Department invoked by these stooges is just one more part of the bosses’ state apparatus.

Sharpton and his liberal cronies want a “national conversation” between the police and working-class communities. But our class has nothing to discuss with these criminal oppressors; our class interests can be served only by eliminating them.

Police Role: Protect Bosses’ Profits

The police can never be reformed, despite the promises of liberal New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and his hand-picked police commissioner, William Bratton. Whether Black, Latin, Asian or white, cops perform an essential job for the capitalists. They enforce the bosses’ profit system by breaking strikes and putting down workers’ rebellions. Wielding street-level terror as their chief weapon, the police are an

Racism Nets U.S. Bosses \$612 Billion

Black and Latin families suffer racist discrimination in many forms: lower wages and benefits; inferior medical care, education and housing; double the overall unemployment rate; wholesale murder by kkkops.

One measure of the toll racism takes is the difference in family income between white families and Black and Latin families. In 2011, the latest figures derived by the Pew Research Center from U.S. Census Bureau statistics, the median family annual income for white families was \$55,412. [The median figure refers to the point at which 50 percent earned more and 50 percent earned less.] For Latin families, the median income was \$38,624; for Black families, only \$32,229.

The bosses used racism to pay 15.6 million Black households a total of \$361 billion less than they’d have earned at the white family median. By underpaying Latin families, the bosses saved an additional \$251 billion.

In sum, the bosses netted \$612 billion in super-profits by super-exploiting Black and Latin workers. This excludes the rulers’ profits from other forms of racist discrimination, as noted above.

Racism is the foundation on which capitalism rests. Without the super-profits gained from racism, U.S. capitalists would be hard-pressed to maintain their imperialist world empire — much less to compete with and square off against their imperialist arch-rivals in China and Russia.

integral part of the rulers’ state power.

Bratton’s racist “broken windows” policy — the dubious theory that cracking down on trivial infractions reduces major crime — has led to hundreds of thousands of arrests and jailings of working people, disproportionately Black and Latin. Meanwhile, a renewed emphasis on “community policing” induces workers to become neighborhood snitches. Both policies contribute to the bosses’ sharpening attacks on our class.

Cops are the front lines for racist mass incarceration — a campaign that began in the 1980s, when the capitalists could no longer buy workers’ passivity with the hope of a factory job. As imperialist competition has intensified, U.S. rulers now have more than seven million workers in prison, on probation or on parole (pewtrusts.org). There are more than

twice as many Black men now trapped in the criminal justice system as there were male slaves in the U.S. in 1850 (Providence Journal PolitiFact.com, 12/7/14). Virtually every criminal case begins with the cops, who clearly target Black workers. “Young black males...were at a far greater risk — 21 times greater — of being shot dead than young white men” (New York Times, 11/28/14).

The mindset of an individual cop is irrelevant; the class role they serve is. Therefore, Bratton’s planned three-day police “retraining” can-

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Smash the capitalist state. Build one communist world: no borders, no cops, no bosses.

FIGHTBACK AGAINST KKKOURT INJUSTICE

Brooklyn

BROOKLYN, NY, November 25 —

About thirty students and staff rallied in front of Tilden High School the day after the grand jury decided not to indict racist killer cop Darren Wilson in Ferguson, MO. Today began with dozens of students and staff grabbing up PLP's anti-racist buttons to put on their shirts and book bags.

Students made signs throughout the day that said "I am Mike Brown"; "Racism Means Fight Back"; and "NYPD KKK" in preparation for the rally. There were lots of discussions around students' experiences with police harassment and brutality. This issue hits close to home with a lot of students in this school who knew Kimani "Kiki" Gray well. Kiki was the unarmed, sixteen-year-old who was gunned down by racist NYPD in March of 2013, just a few blocks from the school.

As school let out for the day, students and some staff gathered with their signs in front of the school and began chanting "No Justice No Peace, No Rac-

ist Police" and "Racism Means Fight Back." After the rally, students vowed to make the next one bigger, by organizing more of their classmates.

Only days later, when a grand jury decided not to indict killer cop Daniel Pantaleo for the murder of Eric Garner in Staten Island, students began immediately organizing to be part of the city-wide fightback. Their first action was a "die-in" during the school day two days after the announcement.

Over 30 students circled the hallways, clapping and yelling loudly, and then about 10 students lay on the floor, pretending to die in solidarity with Michael Brown and Eric Garner. After the "die-in," students walked into their class chanting "I can't breathe!" over and over. After a few minutes of chanting, they returned to their classwork. Students debriefed the action in classrooms, noting that they should have informed more students about the action. Some students didn't know what was going on and didn't participate. Moving forward, students are strategizing future actions. The struggle continues.✪



San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The PLP has

been in the streets repeatedly to protest police murder, from Ayotzinapa, Mexico to Ferguson, from New York City to Oakland. We are outraged by the capitalist system's murder of our youth and we are inspired by the fightback. We are discussing the events with our co-workers, classmates, and friends, and we aim to take advantage of the situation to expose the system and radicalize the working class.

When the radical students of Ayotzinapa were disappeared by the Mexican government, we distributed a leaflet and protested at the Mexican consulate in San Francisco. Our leaflet linked the state violence in Ayotzinapa and Ferguson. A capitalist system that provides no future for its youth is relying more and more on state terror to keep the working class in line. At the rally we chanted in English and Spanish, "Drug war, No! Class war, Yes!" (Guerra del narco, No! Guerra de clases, Si!)

Our collective discussed ways to better prepare for these events. As a result, we purchased a megaphone and at the latest Ferguson rally, we led chants like "Indict, convict, send that killer cop to jail! The whole damn system is guilty as hell!" To the popular chant, "Hands up, don't shoot" we added a second line, "Fists up, fight back!"

PLP is taking the situation seriously, fighting to expand our influence by discussing the events with friends and comrades.

The corporate-controlled media is busy trying to convince people that militant protesting is "going about it the wrong way" and that the important thing is to "keep it peaceful." We argue that there is nothing "peaceful" about business-as-usual under capitalism. They killed Eric Garner in cold blood on camera, just like Oscar Grant was killed on camera here in Oakland seven years ago, and now Tamir Rice.

It is not time for silent, peaceful "protests." It is time for the working class to take direct action against the police state. We applaud the recent action by protesters who chained themselves to the Bay Area Rapid Transit system and shut down all train access to and from San Francisco for two hours. Working-class mass action can shut down the system. Communist revolution can smash it forever.✪



Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, November 27 — Hundreds shut down freeways, confronting the LAPD as Progressive Labor Party, friends, and other protesters took the streets following the announcement that Darren Wilson would not be indicted for the murder of Michael Brown. We maintained that multiracial unity is crucial in the fight against racist police terror.

Starting in the Crenshaw District we marched to the Police Department headquarters in downtown Los Angeles. Along the way, with our banner, signs, and bullhorn PLP helped lead the march chanting "Indict, convict, send those killer pigs to jail. The whole damn system is guilty as hell."

The march turned militant as protesters begin throwing bottles and rocks. A cop pulled out a shotgun trying to intimidate protesters marching onto the 110 Freeway, a major freeway which passes through downtown Los Angeles. Protesters, however, responded with more bold acts: tear-

ing down a fence and running up an embankment that led onto the freeway where we halted traffic.

Clergy, Politicians = Misleaders

In the days that followed, we participated in these street protests, leading chants in English and Spanish and regularly confronting the racist police. While many of these protests have had a spontaneous character, pastors and other community misleaders have tried steering the politics of these protesters towards passive collaboration with local politicians and the police.

In turn, PLP have stressed the need for multiracial working-class unity and turning these militant street protests into training grounds for revolutionary communist struggle. We have also connected the struggle in the U.S. around police terror to the ongoing struggle in Mexico against state-sanctioned repression of militant students.

PLP helped provide political leadership to these marches, met friends and co-workers in the process, and made some new contacts. We still can do more to encourage others to attend these militant protests with us. With this in mind, we are planning events and actions to connect our friends on our campuses and workplaces to this fightback. Some comrades who visited Ferguson recently are giving talks in classrooms to build working-class solidarity and inspire fightback.

Bring Ferguson to Work and School

We are also planning a rally in the garment district against racist police killings to connect the struggle of immigrant workers and oppressed Black workers in U.S. cities. Connecting these street protests to our long-term strategy for building a revolutionary communist movement in key sectors of society will require us to bring this fight to where we work and study. We will hold a teach-in next month and rally on the relationship between Ayotzinapa, Mexico and Ferguson at a local university. Our objective is to both discuss how to fight growing fascism and how universities are complicit in creating the racist ideology which justifies police repression.✪



FIGHTBACK AGAINST KKKOURT INJUSTICE

BROOKLYN, NY, December 3 — Progressive Labor Party rallied in the Flatbush neighborhood today in the wake of both the Mike Brown and Eric Garner no-indictment decisions. We had organized a small uprising here in response to the murder of 16-year-old Kimani “Kiki” Gray last year. Progressive Labor Party has been fighting against racism in Flatbush for five decades. Throughout our presence, we have been connecting the dots between racist cop murders and the need to carry the fight for justice all the way to communist revolution.

Across the country and around the world, workers and students are moving from calls for reform to raising slogans like “indict the system.” As Obama rushes to purchase fifty thousand body cameras, the clear-as-day video evidence of the determined effort to take Eric Garner’s life by NYPD kkkops reveal the futility of such reforms to bring an end to racist murder.

Our multiracial communist rallies started with just a handful of comrades. We were met with an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. Dozens of workers and students, young and older, signed contact sheets and joined our picket lines chanting with all their might. On the night of the Eric Garner decision, we moved from corner to corner, pressing the limits of how long we could block traffic despite massive police presence. The cops were hesitant to make a move on us as the crowd of onlook-

ers grew to hundreds of cheering supporters.

Every move we have made has been in unity with the families of Kyam Livingston and Shantel Davis, two young women murdered by the racist NYPD who joined us for both rallies. As these women have reminded us, the NYPD has taken their family members, but it has also created new families, extended families dedi-

cated to the fight to end racist police murder once and for all. Thousands are in motion and millions are moved by that desire. PLP’s growing influence means more are understanding that only communist revolution can fulfill this aspiration. Join the communist contingent at the Day of Anger: Millions March on December 13 at 2 PM in Washington Square Park.🇵🇸



U.S. Racist Murderers, Inc.

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not change the racism displayed by killer cop Daniel Pantaleo. He ignored Garner’s repeated cries of “I can’t breathe.” Nor will it alter the racism of cop Peter Liang. “While Akai Gurley was dying in a darkened stairwell at a Brooklyn housing development, the cop who fired the fatal bullet was texting his union representative instead of calling for help” (New York Daily News, 12/5/14).

This is standard cop procedure in a period of capitalism in crisis. Since 1999, an era of dramatically falling crime throughout the U.S., “justifiable homicides” by police have steadily climbed. In 1991, there were 1.92 of these killings by cops for every 10,000 violent crimes; by 2011, there were 3.35 (Washington Post, 8/15/14).

‘White Privilege,’ Another Capitalist Myth

Another ruling-class idea, in vogue again in the aftermath of Ferguson, is the misguided notion of “white privilege.” Designed to splinter the working class, it claims that white workers cannot possibly unite with Black workers because their “experience” is so different. In reality, our experiences tie us together; racism against Black workers sets up white workers for attack. A case in point: in the 1980s, after sellout trade union misleaders accepted the layoffs of tens of thousands of Black auto workers, hundreds of thousands of white auto workers were laid off as well. Since then, as the auto bosses continue to tighten the screws to maintain their profits, the pro-boss union leaders have jammed through two-tier wage systems. The result: both white and Black workers are now being hired at half the previously won wage rates. While white workers generally still are paid more than Black workers, income is falling for all workers. Regardless of what deck you’re on, a sinking capitalist ship drowns everyone on board.

Multiracial Unity Socked the Bosses

Though you won’t read about it in the New York Times, there is a long and proud history of multiracial labor unity in the U.S. In the 1930s and 1940s, in basic industries like auto, steel, and electrical, Black and white workers stood as one under communist leadership. Their solidarity and militancy forced the bosses to accept unionization, the 40-hour workweek, regular wage hikes, unemployment insurance and Social Security.

As the streets of Ferguson and New York attest, there is a growing militant, multiracial response to the cops’ atrocities. Pouring out in 170 cities, white and Black workers are uniting around our common class interests each day. Progressive Labor Party is actively participating in this movement, and leading chants and slogans that expose the class nature of racism.

In relying on their cops’ racist butchery to terrorize the working class, the



capitalists may have exposed their Achilles’ heel. Their imperialist war ma-

chine counts on the loyalty of the most persecuted workers. According to the Pentagon’s latest (2012) demographic report, 22 percent of Army enlisted personnel are “black African-American.” Mass mutinies led by Black soldiers and sailors significantly hindered U.S. rulers’ genocidal efforts in Vietnam. As the bosses gear up for a bigger war in the Middle East, their dilemma is sharper than ever.

Build A Mass PLP

This is a period where communists in the Progressive Labor Party, along with our close friends, must play a leading antiracist role wherever they are active — in shops and unions, in community organizations, in high schools and on college campuses, in churches and in the streets. Through multiracial struggles, workers and youth can and must be won to join and build PLP. Only a mass party can stamp out the profit system’s atrocities and point the working class to communist revolution.🇵🇸

Hagel: Too Weak on War

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel won his post two years ago by outlining a U.S.-led coalition-building project for world war. But he proved insufficiently belligerent, and so Barack Obama threw him under the bus. A weak short-term vision proved Hagel’s undoing. Last January, Hagel went along with Obama’s characterization of ISIS as a “JV team,” a second-rate team. But by August, ISIS had emerged as a serious threat to control the Middle East and its vast reserves of cheap oil, the cornerstone of U.S. imperialism.

Incoming Pentagon chief Ashton Carter, by contrast, “is pretty hard-nosed about what can be done with American power, and he is willing to use it when appropriate,” said ex-Defense boss William Perry (New York Times, 12/5/14). Perry added, “His writings also suggest that he takes a sometimes headline view of U.S. foreign

policy on thorny issues like North Korea and Russia.” In fact, Carter has advocated a pre-emptive strike on North Korea. (A 2006 opinion piece he co-authored with Perry in the Washington Post was headlined, “If Necessary, Strike and Destroy.”)

Carter is a physics Ph.D. with expertise in nuclear warfare. In 1984, while at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he wrote the government-sponsored report that shot down Reagan’s “Star Wars” scheme. Instead of relying on unworkable laser defenses against Soviet hydrogen bombs, Carter said the U.S. should focus on “real capabilities,” like the weaponry needed to slaughter a given percentage of urban populations in a nuclear exchange. As Obama undertakes a \$355-billion modernization of the U.S. nuclear arsenal to counter Russia and China (NYT, 9/22/14), he has enlisted expert help.

FIGHTBACK AGAINST KKKOURT INJUSTICE

New Jersey

NEWARK, NJ — The struggle over police terror has sharpened here and it has provided an opportunity for more working-class youth to give leadership. Over the past two weeks, multiracial demonstrations have shut down the main streets in the city and have gotten a lot of support from passing drivers. During one demonstration, after kkkop Daniel Pantaleo got away scot-free with the murder of 43-year-old Black worker Eric Garner, workers left the bus stops and the sidewalks to join the march as it went down Broad St.

On the campuses, students are making plans for more militant actions across the city. As a result, we are starting to see a relationship forming between the college and high school students in the city. This is an improvement for the student movement. While most of the demonstrations have been about education, organizing an antiracist fight against police terror will bring the movement to a higher level.

The Party has been involved in both of these demonstrations. At one, we distributed over 100 CHALLENGEs and 250 leaflets, calling for destroying the capitalist system. Many of our friends were happy to see us out there in response to the misleaders who just spoke about peaceful protesting and urging young people to vote. This is a way of co-opting militant antiracist anger into passive acceptance of the bosses' system.

Over the past month, we have been able to discuss CHALLENGE and our analysis of racism and police terror to many students involved in this struggle. Many of these young people, while still arguing for a federal investigation, are open to PLP and the need for communist revolution. Through more struggle, we can win them to not only being leaders of the working class but also leaders of our Party.✊

Washington, DC

WASHINGTON, DC, November 25 — Over 1,000 marchers — Black, white, Latino, and Asian — closed down Chinatown in DC's central business district as outrage grew over the non-indictment of killer cop Darren Wilson. PLP youth led the communist contingent in the march, with masses of students and workers taking up the militant class-conscious chants sounding over the bullhorn. Over 300 CHALLENGEs and 200 PLP flyers were eagerly taken by protesters. Multiple contacts were made. The night before at midnight, three hours after the verdict, hundreds of Howard University students marched to the White House and then to Congress to protest the racist travesty of justice.

Since then, there have been daily actions trying to halt "business as usual," with protests at the U.S. Justice Department leading to blockades of roads during rush hour and similar tactics at the major train/subway interchange. The exoneration of the cop who killed Eric Garner breathed fresh anger into the movement, and protests continue.

Students have held many meetings to plan further actions at local sites. At one high school, a PLer organized a discussion with videos and stories from Ferguson, the link between Ferguson and the struggle at her school, plans for upcoming marches, and the need for bolder action at her school. New



students have stepped forward through this work to up the ante at their school. Similar activities continue throughout the region.

Many protesters are beginning to understand that there is no way to end racism as long as capitalism rules society. Stopping traffic by itself won't stop capitalism, but building a revolutionary party for the long struggle ahead will create the basis for a new anti-racist world! Join and build the PLP.✊

Antiracist Fight for Kyam Persists

BROOKLYN, NY, November 21 — Today the Justice for Kyam Livingston Committee held the latest monthly demonstration in its campaign to hold the racist prison kkkops accountable for the death of this 37-year-old Black woman in a Brooklyn Central Bookings holding cell.

Kyam's family and the committee have guaranteed that each month there has been some action to mark the date of her death. Although there are similarities in the monthly actions, change has occurred as well. A core leadership has formed closer political and personal ties.

PLers in the committee have supported family members who have turned their grief and anger at their personal loss into organizing efforts. We have connected the dots from this racist murder to the other murders of Shantel Davis and Kimani Gray in Flatbush to the murder of Mike Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in Staten Island. Each was a case of systemic police terror.

Tonight, speakers from Church committees, unions, and neighbors joined the family in calling for Justice

for Kyam. Speakers, including PLers, called for demonstrations when the grand jury's verdict was announced. PLers reminded everyone of the history of no indictments in the past and not guilty verdicts when cases against cops came to trial. We also called into question the nature of capitalist society. Racism, it was pointed out, is the main way the capitalist rulers are able to exploit the entire working class. They divide both to conquer each. Terror is their weapon of intimidation.

What we see, after more than a year of demonstrations and speak-outs, is that the bosses' tactics and lies can be defeated.

Months of struggle against being penned in during our demonstrations resulted in the barricades being removed.

Our regular presence has led to more neighbors, Black, Latin and white, stopping on their way home to listen to our speeches and chants, getting CHALLENGE and joining our demonstrations. Moreover, more participants agree that this racist system has got to go!✊

Fast Food Workers Fight Continues vs. Bosses' Racism



In our Brooklyn PLP club, we're constantly struggling to get all workers the chance to live with dignity. An opportunity came during the first week of December when, along with a mass organization in which we are active, we participated in the fast food workers' strike. There were nearly 2,000 people in the rally and demonstration we attended very early in the morning in Manhattan, where we distributed CHALLENGE.

The speakers focused on their rejection of the miserable salary we earn which barely covers our necessities, arguing that workers need \$15 an hour and the right to unionize to get benefits.

A comrade from our club spoke at the rally and expressed solidarity with the campaign, and of course, supported the proposed raise in pay for all workers. He connected the campaign against the racist police murder of Eric Garner, observing that unemployment

and the miserable salaries that barely keep workers alive deny us from living with dignity. People applauded our comrade warmly.

At the rally we could see the expression on so many people's faces who wondered about the Grand Jury decision of the previous day, which found no reason to indict the cops who murdered Eric Garner. All of the evidence, all of the images, all of the proof that incriminated this murderer dressed in blue was useless. Now, as a sick joke, they will wear body cameras, even though the entire racist murder was recorded and put on the internet.

We are in the middle of this campaign and will continue in the struggle to win the new friends we made closer to PLP. Although our progress is slow, we'll forge ahead until we achieve the victory of our international working class.

A Brooklyn Worker

Ferguson Project

Continued from page 8

acted simply to harass and intimidate us — but they failed!

In follow-up discussions from the Party's trip to Ferguson, the consensus was that the weekend inspired and moved all who had come. Besides the new comrades who stepped up their commitment to smash racism and fight for communism by joining the Party, many more re-committed to build our PLP.

Why Join PLP?

Why should workers, students and soldiers join Progressive Labor Party? Because it's the only fighting organi-

zation that defines and confronts capitalism as the source of racist police terror. The capitalist class — and their cops and KKK-tied militias who lined the rooftops in Ferguson — are terrified of an organized, disciplined, multiracial movement led by communists. We have a lot of work ahead of us. But we emerged from this weekend one step closer to building a mass Party that will shatter this racist capitalist system once and for all. PLP salutes the Ferguson rebels. We invite all workers to join our international Party and fight back like Ferguson for communist revolution!✊

LETTERS

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

FIGHTBACK AGAINST KKKOURT INJUSTICE

Sit-In and Protest at Baltimore High School

Once the Ferguson grand jury decision was announced, with no charges at all being pressed against killer-cop Darren Wilson, many people went wild. Yet another life of a Black male had been taken prematurely by a cop. The outrage in Ferguson, Missouri spread to cities all over the country, and to other parts of the world too!

Here in Baltimore, Maryland, a student sit-in and protest was held at my high school. I was lucky enough to be able to take part.

On the day after the verdict was announced, school system officials did not acknowledge the case at all. If those officials wouldn't give Michael Brown's life the acknowledgement it deserves, then the students would! We planned a sit-in to be held in the auditorium on the following day.

The administration heard of this protest plan, and tried to pacify us by coming up with an official assembly, giving us an hour to speak on the case. All they wanted to do was contain the high emotions of everyone and keep the student body under control.

If school system officials truly cared about developing our understanding about this major injustice, or if they truly wanted to help us become socially conscious fighters and learn how to struggle effectively against all the innocent lives being snuffed out by the kkkops, they would have taken the initiative. At the very least, they could have devoted some time during the previous day's PA announcements to discuss the injustice of Michael Brown's killer facing no consequences at all.

When that hour in the auditorium was up, we stayed in our seats and refused to leave. Myself and some other students took the lead at this event, and it was a beautiful thing to see. Powerful spoken-word pieces were performed; stories about experiences with police brutality were shared; and impassioned speeches were given.

We then left the building to hold a protest outside the school, picketing and chanting vigorously, even though it was snowing and cold. After protesting boldly, we went back inside to watch a documentary (video-taped by PLP members) about the protests in Ferguson. Then we had a lively, heartfelt discussion, with quite a few students speaking and expressing their views on racism, police brutality and related issues.

We also talked about the police murder of Baltimore's Tyrone West who was unarmed and beaten to death in July of 2013 by a dozen cops, none of whom have faced any charges at all! Several students at our school have participated in one or more of the weekly "West Wednesday" protests after Tyrone West's sister came to our school and spoke at a meeting of one of our student clubs.

Everything during our amazing day of protest went well, and I saw that some people were genuinely passionate. However, a lot of people's anger was limited to only their feelings about police brutality. But in reality, it's this capitalist society that we need to be angry with. Under capitalism, police brutality will continue to be common.

One of the most important aspects of the day's great activities is that those of us in Progressive Labor Party had a couple hundred flyers left from the city-wide protests of the night before, where we had distributed 400. It explained why we need revolution and communism. By the end of our sit-in, picket line, and speak-out, we distributed every single one of the 200

The kops, the kourts, the kkkapitalist state killed Michael Brown



Students at a Baltimore high school protest racist no-indictment decisions

remaining flyers!

After receiving and reading the leaflet and listening to how one's socioeconomic status and "race" are connected to his/her mistreatment, students — of ages ranging from fourteen to eighteen — now know more about the corrupt society that they are brainwashed to love. The Progressive Labor Party is spreading knowledge and will be gaining more members.

Conscious High School Student

Building Unity Through Struggle

On November 26, friends and I planned on walking out of class at 9 o'clock for a cause. Appalled by the decision to not indict Darren Wilson after he murdered Michael Brown, a senior came up with the idea to have a peaceful "sit-in" in the auditorium with students from our school and our neighboring school.

The idea was constructed the day before the sit-in was scheduled. Later that night, we caused an uproar on social media by talking about the sit-in. That was the day after the racist decision was released by the grand jury in Ferguson.

Early the next morning, there were rumors that the media found out about it. So, it turns out that this got a lot bigger than what we had expected because the whole high school got involved, and the administration decided not to cause an escalation by opposing it. Instead, they chose to make it semi-official.

Juniors and seniors were set to meet in the auditorium first. Then, after an hour, we would be sent back to class, and the freshmen and sophomores would meet after us. However, the administrations' plan to send us back to class didn't fly with the seniors or some of the juniors. We were not willing to compromise in this situation because we were not willing to have our voices cut off. We decided not to go back to class!

The original objective of the sit-in was to raise awareness of the situation, express our solidarity, and show that we are not oblivious to what's going on around us. Once the administration saw that we were not backing down from our beliefs, they tried to work with us, and gave us a say on something that we, honestly, were going to do, with or without approval.

We elected leaders and by that time, our commu-

nist teacher from last year, who we had invited appeared. With his ideas as well as those of my fellow classmates, we were able to make a difference and have our voices heard. We decided to march and chant outside the school, which many of us did, and then watch a documentary on the current events of Ferguson.

Following that, we gave ourselves the opportunity to finally express our viewpoints, one which is often very limited.

I'm very proud to say that this sit-in united my class, my school. As young Black women and men, along with white students and young people of other background, we'll go down in history as "Young adults who were determined to have their voices heard." I could not be more proud of my fellow students!

New Antiracist Activist

Solidarity in Merced

Recently I attended an action where college teachers, students, and many community people were demonstrating in Merced, CA against the disappearance of students in Ayotzinapa, Mexico, racist cop murders in the U.S., and the "drug wars" against Black and Latin youth in both countries.

As part of the #USTIRED2 movement, Merced was one of 43 cities having such demonstrations, one for each student kidnapped and presumed murdered by the Mexican government. They demanded an end to Mérida Initiative ("Plan Mexico," the billions of U.S. aid to Mexican security forces), and an end to the media blackout on narco-terror in Mexico. Many posters read "Ayotzinapa, Ferguson, Gaza" and "State Repression."

Some of the same people are planning a "teach in" to follow up: there will be speakers on (1) Gaza and the U.S. funding of Israeli military, (2) Mike Brown, Eric Garner, and police militarization, and the Mexico and U.S. connection to War on Drugs.

Many people agreed that this was all about police and state terror against workers in both countries. An older Latino man and I tried to figure out what has changed, why now there was a rapidly growing resistance even though mass incarceration, police murder, and state terror has stolen hundreds of thousands of lives in both countries for many years. After speculations, we realized there was a simple, yet profound truth: "everything has a breaking point."

In Mexico many are saying, "They have taken everything, even our fear." In Ferguson the heroic Black youth have kept at it month after month and many are trying to figure out deeper questions about the bigger breaking point, when the "whole system has to go." It gave me a lot to think about on the long drive home, but suffice it to say there is real possibility and power in international working-class solidarity.

Bay Area Red



Unemployment: Again, Figures Don't Lie but Liars Still Figure

Obama and the bosses' media are hailing the latest government jobs report as a sign that the economy is improving for the working class, with an alleged increase of 321,000 jobs (see box) and an unemployment rate "holding steady" at 5.8 percent. As Shadowstats.com shows, this figure is "far removed from underlying reality." It "defines out of existence" millions of unemployed "for political convenience."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 5.8 percent unemployment rate is based on workers who have actively looked for work in the four weeks preceding their survey. This excludes what they define as "short-term discouraged workers" who have not looked for work in the last year. And it further excludes those millions

who have been out of a job for over a year, the so-called long-term discouraged workers, and, as the New York Times says (12/6), "few of the workers who gave up the search for work during the lean years are likely to be hired anytime soon." On top of that, the BLS further excludes nearly seven million part-time workers who want — but cannot find — a full-time job, which, if included, nearly doubles its rate to 11.3 percent.

However, when all these groups are included in the jobless figures, Shadowstats.com estimates the true unemployment rate at 23 percent, approximately four times the BLS "headline" figure of 5.8 percent! So the BLS simply "disappears" these millions from their phony jobless rate to arrive at their 5.8 percent figure. And none of these totals include those youth who, unable to find a job, join the military. It doesn't include the economic draft. It definitely does not include unemployed undocumented workers, some of who will be recruited into the armed forces via the Dream Act.

Racist Unemployment

Due to the long-term discrimination against Black workers, racism doubles their unemployment rate even in the BLS figures to 11.1 percent. However, if one were to use the true overall Shadowstats jobless rate of 23 percent, Black workers face an unemployment rate of probably well over 40 percent. This is part of what is behind the police terror in Black communities, murdering and threatening Black workers and especially jobless youth into a feeling of hopelessness that the bosses hope will induce many to join the military. However, the rulers face a dilemma here. How many Black youth will want to "defend a country" whose racist police attack and kill them with impunity?

While many point to the recklessness of the big banks as the cause of the Great Recession — which no doubt contributed to the millions of home mortgage foreclosures, homelessness, and mass unemployment for the working class — the fundamental root of this economic collapse is capitalism. The bankers, like all bosses under this system, are driven to seek maximum profits to stay ahead of

The Bureau of Labor Statistics: Fraud, Inc.

One way the government falsifies jobless figures is by including the jobs that are created by the opening of new businesses while simultaneously excluding jobs lost when companies reduce their payrolls due to devastation from hurricanes or go out of business altogether and fail to report their now non-existent payrolls. This difference, the so-called "birth-death ratio," averages an underreporting of some 200,000 lost jobs per month. So much for the "gain" of 321,000 jobs in November. Thus are jobs created out of thin air.

their rivals or they will go under, as happened to the Lehman investment house, among others, in this recent collapse.

Decade after decade, for centuries, workers have suffered the boom and bust, the recessions and depressions of a system in which bosses strive to produce as much as they think they can sell. Such a planless system inevitably leads to overproduction, causing the closing of those factories and businesses which cannot sell what they thought they could, and the laying off of millions of workers.

Thus, mass unemployment is built into a system based on competition and the merciless exploitation of its working class. The threat to workers' jobs from the ranks of the unemployed prevent struggles for a living wage and have allowed bosses to continue to lower workers' income for decades. When world capitalism suffered the economic bust of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the planning of the communist-led Soviet Union wiped out unemployment altogether in that country.

This is why Progressive Labor Party says only communism — a system free of bosses and profits, and the racism, sexism and wars capitalism produces — is the only answer for the working class. Our class produces all value and under communism we will share it collectively according to need.☺



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

How the racist U.S. criminal INjustice system works

NYT, 11/26 — [In] the St. Louis County grand jury's decision not to indict the white police officer who... killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager... the county prosecutor, Robert McCulloch,...widely viewed...as being in the pockets of the police...made no recommendations....but left it to the jurors to wade through masses of evidence to determine whether there was probable cause to file charges against...Wilson....

Under ordinary circumstances, grand jury proceedings can be concluded within days. The proceeding in this case lasted an astonishing three months...fann[ing] suspicions that...McCulloch deliberately carried on a trial out of public view, for the express purpose of exonerating...Wilson....

...McCulloch's announcement sounded more like a defense of...Wilson than a neutral summary of the facts....

For the black community of Ferguson, the killing of Michael Brown was the last straw in a long train of abuses that they have suffered daily at the hands of the local police [who]....in St. Louis's many municipalities systematically target poor and minority citizens for street and traffic stops — partly to generate fines — which has the effect of both bankrupting and criminalizing whole communities.

...the police are justifiably seen as an alien, occupying force that is synonymous with state-sponsored abuse....

...The killing of young black men by police is a common feature of African-American life and a source of dread for black parents from coast to coast....A grim report by ProPublica, show[ed] that young black males... were at a far greater risk — 21 times greater — of being

shot dead by police than young white men.

U.S. ethnic cleansing in Sand Creek Massacre paved way for today's cops

NYT, 11/28 — On Nov. 29, 1864, as Union armies fought through Virginia and Georgia, Col. John Chivington led some 700 cavalry troops in an unprovoked attack on peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho villagers at Sand Creek in Colorado. They murdered nearly 200 women, children and older men, including the band's leader, Black Kettle, whose commitments to peace were well known.

Sand Creek was one of many assaults on American Indians during the war....[including] Patrick Edward Connor's massacre of Shoshone villagers along the Idaho-Utah border at Bear River on Jan. 29, 1863....

Pregnant women were murdered and scalped, genitalia were paraded as trophies,...[amid] scores of wanton acts of violence....

...The government refused to compensate the victims or their families....

These and other campaigns amounted to what is today called ethnic cleansing: an attempted eradication and dispossession of an entire indigenous population....

The United States has yet to...recognize the violent destruction wrought against indigenous peoples by the Civil War and the Union Army. Connor and Evans [the region's superintendent of Indian Affairs] have cities, monuments and plaques in their honor, as well as two universities [U. of Denver and Northwestern U.] and even Colorado's Mount Evans, home to the highest paved road in North America....

Stolen wages net U.S. bosses super-super-profits: \$1.5 billion in NY, Calif.

NYT, 12/4 — A new study shows that...workers in California and New York....more than 300,000 in each

state suffered minimum-wage violations each month.... Even if one assumed a violation half that nationwide,... more than two million workers across the nation were paid less than...minimum wage....

The...violations in those two states translate into...\$29 million in lost income per week....Those amounts represent 38 percent of the income of the victimized workers in New York and 49 percent of the income of victimized workers in California....

"Younger workers are significantly more likely to be illegally paid below the minimum wage...."

"...We're finding these violations when the minimum wage is at its lowest level in a long, long time, after factoring in inflation...."

Guadalupe Salazar, a cashier at a McDonald's in Oakland, Calif., said her paychecks repeatedly missed a few hours of work time and overtime pay....Some...hours were erased from timecards and they had to work off the clock.

Mexico: students, teachers battle cops over mass murders

NYT, 11/21 — Mexico City — A day of...antigovernment mass marches...to protest the disappearance, and presumed murders, of 43 college students ended with clashes with police....

Thousands of people led by relatives of the missing students marched through the city and converged...at the historic square known as Zócalo....

Demonstrators, mostly students and members of teachers' unions...focused their ire on President Enrique Peña Nieto, with echoing shouts of "Peña Nieto out!" and an effigy of the president...was burned....

...The mayor of Iguala, who had links to organized crime, ordered his police force to detain the students... with the officers then turning them over to drug gang members who killed them and burned their bodies....

Two weeks ago, protesters...set fire to the door of the National Palace....

Ferguson Project: Solidarity with Anti-Racists and Defying Cops



FERGUSON, MO, November 30 — More than forty Progressive Labor Party members and friends from New York City, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles traveled here this weekend to express solidarity with the workers of Ferguson and demonstrate against racist police terror. In the wake of the grand jury's refusal to indict racist killer kkkop Darren Wilson for the murder of Michael Brown, young members of Progressive Labor Party learned how to organize under pressure. We met the escalation of police repression with an escalation of our own, training a significant number of new fighters and recruiting more than a dozen — mostly Black, Latin, and Asian women — to the Party.

The rebellion of the workers in Ferguson has led and inspired the international working class. They have shown us a glimpse of the power of multiracial fight-back under militant Black leadership. The weekend's impact went far beyond its relatively modest scope. It showed that when communists put forward a revolutionary line in bold defiance of the bosses and police, workers respond and unite with PLP into battle.

PL'ers and Friends Walk the Walk

Upon arriving in Ferguson on Friday, November 28, our comrades and friends immediately organized to go to a demonstration in front of the Ferguson police department, where community members have been protesting every day since Michael Brown was killed on August 9. There we met many friends and contacts our Party has made over successive trips to Ferguson, where cops had declared a ban on marching in the street. Against the opposition of liberal and religious misleaders, more than 150 mostly Black workers joined in taking the street and closing an intersection near the police department. The cops responded by lining up in riot gear and declaring the streets off-limits to demonstrations.

PLP has a long and proud history of challenging police bans on marching in the street, dating back to the Harlem Rebellion of 1964. Sustaining this history of militancy, we first rallied on the sidewalk in front of the police station. Several of our comrades called upon the community and the National Guard troops guarding the station to join our march and fight back. One older Ferguson resident spoke movingly of his memories of the lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi in 1955, and how the situation has not changed for Black workers in the United States.

PL'ers then made the decision to march into the street, prompting the riot police to charge. They attacked our line and arrested a total of 16 comrades and protesters, brutalizing the demonstrators with batons

and chemical weapons. We responded with chants that reflected our communist ideas, such as: "The cops, the courts, the Ku Klux Klan, all a part of the bosses' plan!" Throughout the weekend, we tried to clarify how the capitalist ruling class uses racist terror and the state apparatus to protect its profit system and to divide and discourage all workers from fighting back.

The police attack galvanized community people who had gathered there. Many were moved to support us after witnessing the cops' viciousness, and the class treason of the liberal misleaders encouraged the police to arrest us.

New Leaders Step Up and Continue the Fight

Prior to our arrival, according to residents, the confrontations with Ferguson police had been brave but spontaneous. By marching down Florissant Street and temporarily closing the intersection by the police station, PLP followed the leadership of the bold local fighters and also brought discipline and organization to the front line. The arrests posed a significant challenge for the PL'ers who survived the waves of police charges. Following our Party's emphasis on building youth leadership for a mass party and adhering to militant discipline, our remaining comrades treated those who'd been beaten and pepper-sprayed. Although many were inexperienced at providing political and tactical leadership, PL'ers and friends closed ranks, with several friends of the Party stepping up to provide leadership.

The next morning, Saturday, we met to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of our activity. We assigned new teams and formed an agenda to meet

more local workers. After attending a mass meeting at a nearby church, where we met with friends in the community, one team went door-to-door in Ferguson to sell CHALLENGE. Another attended a rally that afternoon, with a third team remaining at the church with additional arriving comrades from Chicago to participate in discussions there. In this way we were able to bring more workers and students to our barbecue dinner and forum that evening.

Solidarity with Ferguson Workers

The dinner helped strengthen our relationships with the Ferguson community. As one rebel put it, PLP represents the true meaning of the word "solidarity," while everyone else "just puts it on Facebook or comes through here like they're shooting a music video."

Following dinner, we invited our friends to come back out with us for another rally. Police presence was tripled around the Ferguson police station, with groups of riot cops standing by in adjacent alleys. This time we were received even more warmly by the community, who exchanged hugs with us and joined our chants.

While the young leaders of that evening made the estimate not to challenge the police in taking the street following the previous night's losses, our presence brought out crowds of Black workers in front of the police station. They kept coming, even as we left to recover our comrades from jail, who were being held for 24 hours from the previous night. None of the comrades were charged. The police riot had nothing to do with "legality" under the bosses' racist system. The cops

Continued on page 5

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