

CHALLENGE



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2 COPS DEAD: ONLY A UNITED WORKING CLASS CAN END POLICE TERROR

BROOKLYN, December 20 — When Ismayaail Brinsley killed New York Police Department cops Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos in Bedford-Stuyvesant, he did nothing for the mass movement against racist police terror. He was a man with a long history of mental illness who had earlier shot his girlfriend. Minutes later, according to the cops, he shot himself.

Before the bodies were even cold, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Police Commissioner William Bratton, Police Union Chief Patrick Lynch (fitting name), and a host of media talking heads and scribblers found their common talking point. They all linked the murder of the two cops to the mass outrage against racist police terror and the failure of two grand juries to indict the killers of Eric Garner and Mike Brown. No one even mentioned the racist carnival by the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association the night before the shootings, when cops spat in the face of the Garner family and supporters by wearing "I Can Breathe" t-shirts at a City Hall rally.

Racist Mayor Kills KKKops

While former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani blames peaceful protesters for the killing of two police officers, the leading cause of death of NYPD officers is actually 9/11-related illnesses. Guiliiani avoids the subject because he mishandled the cleanup and ignored simple and routine safety precautions in the months following the attacks. As a result, 9/11-related disease has claimed the lives of dozens of officers. Their blood is on Guiliiani's hands.

— From *U.S. Uncut* (12/21/14) on *Gothamist.com*

Terrorism Only Serves the Bosses

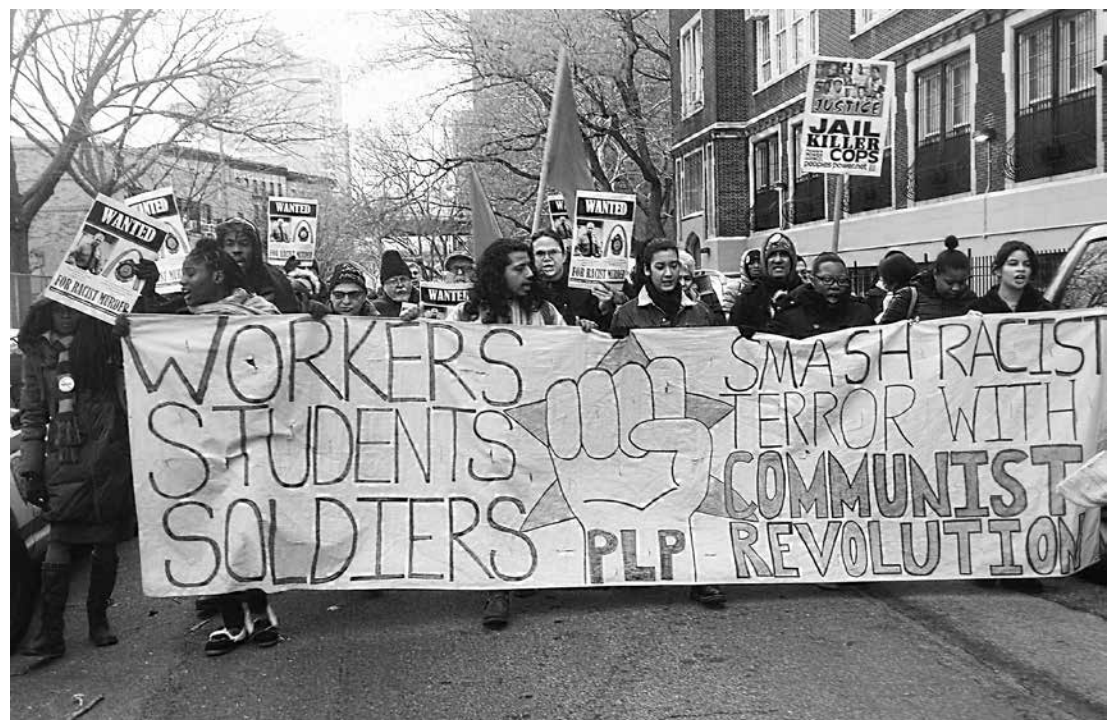
The openly racist Lynch and Bratton directly blamed the anti-racist mass marches and rallies that have swept the country since the Ferguson rebellion. Liberal de Blasio used the occasion to call for a "suspension" of anti-racist demonstrations. The recent falling out between Lynch and de Blasio is little more than political theater. Both agree that the anti-racist movement should get off the streets.

The capitalist bosses will exploit the killing of the two cops on many levels. The politicians and their Klan in blue will use them to blunt a growing anti-racist movement and retake the offensive. We may see a renewed wave of police terror against Black youth and sharper attacks on political groups who are part of the antiracist movement. The bosses may try to make an example of the anarchists who tried to throw trash cans on the Brooklyn Bridge two weeks ago.

Their real aim is to terrorize and scare the masses of workers, many of them getting active for the first time. No doubt, the police will use these murders to increase their surveillance of groups like Progressive Labor Party. They now have the perfect excuse to spy on and disrupt the "first responders" to the latest siege of police terror.

The revolutionary communist PLP rejects all acts of individual terror or anarchist street theater. We are organizing on our jobs and in our schools, churches, unions, military and many other places where workers are present. We are building a mass movement to combat police terror, imperialist wars and their root cause, capitalism, with strikes, rebellions and walkouts. In the process, we are winning workers and youth to see that racist terror will end only when the working class takes power with communist revolution. Our strategy is to build a Party of millions leading millions more, across all borders. Terror and terrorism only serve the bosses. ☸

Forum: Hails Ferguson Rebellion, Shuts Down Streets



NEW YORK CITY, December 21 — The Progressive Labor Party and other antiracist protesters escalated the fight against U.S. kkkapitalism here this weekend. Rising fascism in the U.S. — and an onslaught of racist murders by the cops — has left workers and youth no choice but to fight back. These two days in New York demonstrated that workers and youth are not only open to communist politics, but are willing to organize under communist leadership.

Forum: Fight Like Ferguson

A multiracial crowd of over 140 workers and youth filled a Harlem church on Saturday to learn about fighting racist violence. A Ferguson rebel and fighters from Baltimore spoke about the need to build a resistance against racist police terror. On July 18, 2013, Tyrone West, a 44-year-old Black worker, was beaten to death by more than a dozen Baltimore cops. On December 18, seventeen months later, the state's attorney declared the kkkops had used "objectively reasonable force" and would face no criminal charges. This murder forced workers in Baltimore to fight back. Every time the capitalist state kills one of our class brothers or sisters, it also recruits untold numbers of enemies against itself.

The Harlem forum displayed multiple branches of an antiracist movement budding all at once: the Ferguson rebellion that ignited an international fire to burn this capitalist system down; other local fightbacks, already in place, that enabled the spirit of Ferguson's resistance to spread; the response in our schools and community organizations, led mostly by youth; the potential to recruit hundreds for communist revolution through bold and consistent political work. PLP has been active for years with families of police murder victims. We have had a significant presence in Ferguson. Our work has begun to bear fruit as the seeds of future actions are being planted.

Taking the Streets of Harlem

After the forum, the participants took the streets. We marched through the Manhattanville and Grant housing projects, where police raided and arrested 40 young Black people in June in a full-scale racist assault, complete with helicopters. The cops swarmed the projects. They bashed down

doors, trashed apartments, intimidated grandmothers and toddlers, and sought to arrest 103 indicted young people.

Complete with wanted posters of Darren Wilson, the killer of Michael Brown, and a banner calling for communist revolution. Marchers chanted, "Eric Garner, Mike Brown, Shut this racist system down!" Residents took CHALLENGE and expressed interest in fighting with us; a group of neighborhood youth joined the march. After we took half of 125th Street, Harlem's main east-west thoroughfare, the cops were quick to show up. We were not intimidated. Workers threw their fists in the air in solidarity as we stopped traffic. Four Black teenage girls joined us chanting, and continued to follow us on the sidewalk after a cop prodded them off the street.

Our initial plan was to conclude the march with a picket of the State Office Building. But after seeing the outpouring of workers' solidarity, we continued to march past the building and picketed in the street, blocking traffic all four ways. Drivers refused to move their cars. Their response showed us that many workers are ready to fight and take communist leadership.

The forum and rally were led by youth who organized against the police in Ferguson during the week following the no-indictment verdict for Michael Brown. That experience gave PL youth courage and confidence to defy cops in New York. We have many more lessons to learn and battles to fight, but this weekend showed that everything we do counts. Every time we protest, we intensify the potential for more rebellion.

Building Ties in the Working Class

Without deep and broad ties to the working class, the militancy and political sharpness of communists would be for naught. In addition to our Ferguson and Baltimore friends, two young people from upstate New York we met in the Ferguson jail came to this weekend's actions. When asked to name the most gripping part of their trip, these new friends talked about PLP's collectivity and organization. "You have dedication and love. Having this collective is beautiful...this bond. A big bond among

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OUR FIGHT

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

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

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

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

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. 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, Latin, 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

Russia-China Rivalry to U.S. Doorstep!

Far from ushering in a new era of peaceful coexistence, Barack Obama's opening to Cuba reflects a sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry. By restoring ties to the Caribbean island, Obama and the U.S. capitalists he serves are seeking to reassert U.S. influence in Latin America at the expense of Russia, China, and Venezuela. While the U.S. bosses' media focus mainly on economics and politics, the shift also has a significant military dimension. As the Russian and Chinese war machines set their sights on Cuba, it signals a growing probability of global conflict.

The pro-U.S. Jerusalem Post (12/18/14) praises Obama's move in geo-strategic terms: "Alarming, the Russians in recent months have been using Cuba to build up a menacing Cold War-era presence at America's doorstep." For U.S. rulers, a rehabilitated Cuba lowers the risk of Russia moving in "just a short boat ride away from the Florida Keys."

The inside story was revealed by Bill Gertz, a writer for the right-wing Washington Times — owned by the Unification Church, which has close ties to South Korea's national intelligence agency. According to the New York Times (12/3/2000), Gertz has used his special access to publish "more classified information than anyone else in America." On December 17, he wrote:

Months before President Obama announced on Wednesday that he is seeking to do away with decades of U.S. economic sanctions against the communist regime in Cuba, Russia concluded a security deal with Havana aimed at bolstering intelligence and military ties to the island dictatorship.

The Russia-Cuba agreement was announced May 16 The security agreement comes amid fresh U.S. intelligence agency concerns that Russia is taking steps to follow through on plans to conduct strategic nuclear bomber flights over the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, possibly with the help of Cuba and Venezuela.

Russian officials recently held discussions with both governments about the use of airfields for Russia's Tu-95 nuclear capable bombers, known as the Bear H. The bombers have been conducting large numbers of threatening flights near U.S. coasts in recent months.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu stated Nov. 12 that Russia would begin sending long-range bombers to the Gulf. "We have to maintain [Russia's] military presence in the western Atlantic and eastern Pacific, as well as the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico," he said, noting strategic bombers would be dispatched to the region for "drills."

China, Cuba: Military Allies

Meanwhile, China's state news agency, Xinhua, reported, "China's top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng met with Cuban Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces Leopoldo Cintra Frias on Thursday. Saying bilateral military ties are part of party-to-party and country-to-country relations between China and Cuba, Yu spoke highly of the progress in high-level exchanges and training between the two militaries" (12/11/14).

Since 1823, U.S. foreign policy has followed the Monroe Doctrine. President James Monroe declared that any ef-

U.S. 'Human Rights' — Boundless Hypocrisy

The hypocrisy of the U.S. ruling class and their media knows no bounds. They spout about the absence of "human rights" in Cuba. Yet where are the "human rights" in the racist killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson? In the cops' choking to death of Eric Garner in New York City? In the killing of 12-year-old Black youth Tamir Rice holding a toy gun in Cleveland? In the mass imprisonment of more than two million workers and youth in the U.S., 70 percent of them Black and Latin? In the CIA torture of prisoners who are never brought to trial? In the drone strike murders of hundreds — likely thousands — of civilians in the Middle East and South Asia? In the wasteland left by the U.S. imperialist invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan? The crimes of the U.S. bosses are endless.

Only communism can end this slaughter. For a definition of real human rights, see the page 2 column headed "Our Fight." This is what our revolutionary party stands for.

forts by outside powers to colonize or interfere with states in North or South America would be viewed as acts of aggression — and would require U.S. intervention. From that point forward, the Marines invaded any Latin American country where U.S. corporate interests were threatened.

Castro's Cuba defied this doctrine. In 1960, after it seized a billion dollars worth of U.S. corporate holdings, the U.S. imposed a trade embargo and banned travel to Cuba. (While the travel ban was generally effective, the Progressive Labor Movement—forerunner to Progressive Labor Party—successfully broke it in 1963.) In recent years, as U.S. power has weakened, competing capitalists from China, Japan, Germany, France and Spain have jumped into South America, making deals with Brazil, Chile, Argentina and others. The U.S. has grown marginalized in its own backyard.

Now China is using Cuba to entrench itself in the region. Vladimir Putin is moving to outflank the U.S. by strengthening Russia's military ties there. In response, U.S. rulers would have to gear up their military machine to recapture their once-dominant position.

War Is the Name of Rulers' Cuba Game

Bankrolled by oil firms like Exxon and Chevron, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosts a program called Military Forum, where senior Department of Defense officials "present their unique insights and vision on the direction of U.S. national security and defense policy" (CSIS website).

A year ago, these warmongers ran conferences headlined, "The Case to Remove Cuba from the Terrorist List" and "Cuba: Finding its Place in the Global Market?" Now those questions have been settled. On December 2, two weeks before Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced a normalization of relations, the forum topic was "Getting to Normal: A Legal Pathway for U.S.-Cuba Policy Reform."

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Inside School and Out — Unite to Fight Racism

BROOKLYN, NY, December 6 — “These cops really made me mad. They arrested my teachers for no reason.” This among other quotes plastered the Facebook walls of students at a Brooklyn high school. Students, parents and staff found out that over the Thanksgiving weekend, two of their teachers, along with 14 others, were arrested in Ferguson, MO during a protest against the racist murder of Michael Brown and subsequent non-indictment of kkkop Darren Wilson.

Returning to work, the arrested teachers were met with applause, hugs and lots of questions. The sentiment throughout the school was a sense of pride in knowing someone who took a stand against these racist attacks. So when “Tales from Ferguson” was hosted during students’ lunch time, it was standing room only. About 100 students, parents and teachers packed a classroom to watch a video of the protest, hear stories and ask questions. Everyone left with a better understanding of growing fascism and a sense of how powerful the working class can be when united in class struggle.

The next day brought news that another killer cop would not be indicted for the racist murder of Eric Garner. Inspired by the recent fight back in Ferguson, students, parents and teachers sprung into action.

Students led the way, planning a militant walkout for Thursday afternoon. In just six hours, word spread throughout the building. During

the day, some teachers stopped classes to discuss the details of the case, the role of police under capitalism and what students can do to organize and fight back. In the course of these discussions, students realized “there are more of us than there are of them” so we can defeat the police and the ruling class they serve.

While one student expressed concern that protesting wouldn’t change anything, others struggled with him — any action is better than standing by silently. They noted the history of strong movements that have produced change. These discussions and the student organizing led to 30 students walking out before the last period and rallying in front of the building. Although a small group, their chanting could be heard throughout the building. Their message was clear: racism means we got to fight back.

As the students mobilized for their action, teachers and parents planned an assembly and rally for the next day. The history department put together a presentation highlighting examples of anti-racist movements in this country. The assembly was fol-



lowed by a rousing rally after school when over one hundred students, parents and teachers participated.

Moving forward we want to win students and co-workers to join the Progressive Labor Party because we’re the only fighting organization that defines and confronts capitalism as the source of racist terror in the classroom and in the streets.✪

Seattle: Fight Against Racist Police

SEATTLE, December 10 — Protests began in Seattle immediately after the grand jury in Ferguson refused to indict killer cop Darren Wilson for the murder of Mike Brown. That night one hundred cops donning riot gear and brandishing assault rifles came out to meet over one hundred students, teachers and workers who were shutting down intersections in downtown Seattle.

When some demonstrators moved onto Interstate 5, police attacked with tear gas, pepper spray and flash-bang grenades. Protesters on the overhead bridges responded by throwing rocks and firecrackers at police below. The police made some arrests and beat some people, but the workers and students were not deterred. On the national day of action four days later, over 1,000 people took to the streets to oppose racist police violence.

Since this initial outpouring of antiracist rage, demonstrations of varying sizes have been held almost every night. The Seattle Times (ST) editorial board attacked antiracists as a “roaming gang of belligerent hostiles” out to ruin Christmas and scare children. They harshly criticized Mayor Ed Murray for saying he sympathized with those angered by the Brown decision — a statement he immediately rescinded (ST, 12/2). Still, antiracists were not deterred.

On Saturday, December 6th, over 1,200 demonstrators marched from Garfield High School — a predominantly Black school — into downtown where they again committed the great crime of “bringing Westlake Center and Pacific Place mall to a standstill on the busiest shopping days of the year”(ST).

Leaving downtown, protesters formed a human chain shutting down multiple intersections in the trendy Capitol Hill neighborhood. A series of bars and restaurants were targeted because their owners had asked for a greater police presence to attack “Somali gangs” last summer (ST, 12/4). Demonstrators denounced the racist call for police use of profiling that could only lead to violence.”

Every step of the way police have sought to intimidate protesters. On last Sunday’s Dec. 7 march police herded the crowd of one hundred into a dark, largely abandoned street. Once there, the police surrounded the group, creating bike barriers on either side of the street while riot cops holding their batons out sealed the ends.

Marchers were kept there for half an hour while police presumably debated rioting through the crowd as their counterparts in Oakland had the night before. On Monday night one protest leader was attacked, arrested and held overnight by a gang of cops as she walked home from the demonstration alone. Still, antiracists remain resolute.

These marches have made the priorities of the police and the media under capitalism crystal clear. To again quote the Times, to stand up and oppose racism and police brutality is not “building a better world,” but “destroying it.” And police throwing flash-bang grenades into crowds is being “otherwise restrained.” The police line up to protect the banks while the papers call upsetting holiday shopping “violence.” For those who have never seen fascism with its mask off, the last few weeks have been very enlightening.

Meanwhile, on December 5th, the county prosecutor announced that he will not press charges against cop who viciously punched a Black woman while she was handcuffed in the back of his squad car. The victim, Miyekko Durden-Bosley, had her right orbital socket shattered, while the racist cop got a six-month paid vacation (ST, 12/5). Right now workers and students in the streets are only calling for reform, but that won’t change capitalism’s racist nature and the violence it produces. As the face of brutal capitalism is revealed, antiracist protests must be turned into revolutionary action!✪

College Conference Spurs Action in Boston

BOSTON, December 23 — The PLP college conference in November advanced the work at one college here. Several students from Roxbury Community College found it to be an “awesome experience” when they discovered that their opinions and values were shared by a diverse, sincere and interesting group of people who called themselves communists. Since then they have been meeting with the Party, getting to know each other better and learning more about capitalism, racism, fascism and communism.

The experience they had at the bold and disciplined antiracist march and rally in East Harlem opened them to the idea of holding a rally after the Grand Jury decision in Ferguson. Even though they weren’t able to carry it out, just making the plan got them to consider what it means to be leaders of the working class.

One student attended a recent Boston demonstration demanding justice for Eric Garner. She found it inspiring to see others fighting back against racist police terror. As part of the Pizza and Politics Steering Committee, they are planning to bring a class analysis of racism and fascism into the upcoming college discussion: “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot! I can’t Breathe! Taking a Stand Against Racial Injustice.” They are looking forward to the next opportunity to meet and rally with PLP students from around the country. Currently two of the students are meeting in a PLP study group on political economy.✪

PL Breaks City’s No-Protest Ban



BROOKLYN, December 22 — “No justice, no peace, no racist police!” rang out loud and clear on the corner of Church and Nostrand Avenues in Flatbush tonight. Members and friends of Progressive Labor Party broke mayor Bill de Blasio and NYPD commissioner William Bratton’s “ban” on antiracist protests. The City bosses want to honor the cops shot on December 20 by shutting down protests. As

speakers pointed out time and again, where was the bosses’ time of mourning and concern for the children of Eric Garner and so many other victims of racist police terror? Passing cars honked in support of the protest. People passing by joined the picket line for a time or two around, chanting and raising their fists in unity against racist murders by the police.✪

Marchers Hit Racist Understaffing, Welfare for Bosses

NEWARK, NJ, November 3 — Chanting “Same struggle same fight, workers and clients must unite”, and “The bankers got bailed out, we got sold out,” 125 unionized Essex County welfare workers marched and rallied here today. The workers were joined by the War Against Poverty Coalition (WAPC), the People’s Organization for Progress (POP) and several other organizations to protest the severe racist understaffing of welfare centers throughout Essex County. This is causing a huge backlog of Food Stamp and Medicaid applications. We demand jobs at living wages, restoration of all social service cutbacks, and an end to government subsidies/welfare for corporations.

Speakers included social service workers and one client. The client was laid off along with hundreds of other workers from a New Jersey factory. He spoke passionately about the inability of the understaffed welfare system to provide for the needs of people like himself. He called for welfare workers to unite with their clients, and not be sucked into an anti-client mentality. “Welfare reform” has deliberately promoted this kind of thinking.

Other speakers stressed the need to vote in the upcoming election. But one social services worker called for a revolution of the working people to shake up the

foundation of the “1 percent”, calling on workers to “directly pierce the heart of capitalism squarely in the chest and reclaim the rights that have been stripped away from us”.

Under communism, human needs like health care and food would not be commodities to be sold so that some boss makes a profit. That is because communism would eliminate the commodity exchange system that capitalism requires. Also, capitalism needs unemployment in order to drive down wages, a necessary measure for any boss to stay competitive. Stop-gap programs like Food Stamps are only necessary because of the mass racist unemployment we see under capitalism. Black, Latin, and Asian workers are super-exploited and continue used as a wedge against the white working class.

In the past six years, as a direct result of capitalism’s economic crisis, Food Stamp applications in Essex County and statewide have skyrocketed. Ten percent of New Jersey residents now receive Food Stamps, and thousands of others need help but can’t get it. Also, Medicaid income eligibility levels have gone up as the new Affordable Care Act is rolled out, resulting in thousands of new applicants for benefits in Essex County alone. These applicants for Food Stamp and Medicaid

benefits are overwhelmingly Black and Latin residents.

Instead of hiring more staff so that all these new applications can be processed on time, the county bosses, backed by their state overlords, have kept a hiring freeze in place for years! As a result thousands of unfinished applications pile up in local offices, causing needy clients frustration, lack of health care and hunger. Rank-and-file caseworkers catch the brunt of the clients’ anger while the state and county bosses get off scot free!

Meanwhile, Prudential Insurance Co. received more than \$200 million in state tax credits from the NJ Economic Development Authority last year alone. This was in return for a “promise” to create a measly 400 jobs, few of which will go to Newark residents. These giveaways to “Pru” bosses are paying half the cost of their new 20-story office tower (The Real Deal, Dec. 2013), clearly visible from the daily long lines at the main Essex County welfare office.

The campaign against racist understaffing in the welfare centers will continue. PLP will bring to participants in this campaign the idea of a communist world without unemployment where everything produced by the working class is shared according to need. ☺

Russia-China Rivalry to US Doorstep!

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The road to Obama’s Cuba gambit was paved by the U.S.-led manipulation to lower oil prices. Even as demand shrinks in a worsening global economy, crude oil production soars in the U.S. and junior partner Saudi Arabia. This has little to do with breakthroughs in U.S. fracking or the Saudis’ desire to retain market share. In reality, U.S. rulers are aiming to punish — if not overthrow — their rivals in Moscow and Caracas. As oil prices have plunged 50 percent since June, economic chaos has ensued in Russia and Venezuela, capitalist petro-states at the top of the U.S. hit list. U.S. rulers pulled the same trick in 1986, when Vice President George H. Bush convinced Saudi King Fahd to depress oil prices. The resulting dislocation helped assure the demise of the Soviet Union.

Even while forced to admit that Cuban health care and education put the U.S. to shame, U.S. politicians are boasting that the move toward normalization proves the “failure of communism” in the island nation. But Cuba never had communism. Its ruling party, following the lead of a decaying Soviet Union, never gave full working-class state power a chance. Misled by the myth of the halfway house of socialism, Cuba maintained lethal aspects of the profit system. Its revolution was doomed from the start.

Cuban Socialism = Capitalism

As Maria Elena Hernández, a senior Communist Party official, told the New York Times (12/20), “We’re going to be like China and Vietnam, a socialist country with capitalism.” By retaining wages, Fidel Castro’s regime locked in wage differentials and a small privileged class, hallmarks of capitalism. In Cuba, as in the USSR and China, socialism led straight back to the capitalist profit system. China is now the world’s second largest capitalist economy. It features mass unemployment and poverty wages for hundreds of millions. A select few have become billionaires on the backs of the working class.

It is socialism — a fig leaf for capitalism — that has failed, not communism. It is the profit system that continues to fail billions of workers worldwide.

A normalized Cuba will spell full-blown capitalism for its working class. It will inevitably lead to heightened exploitation, lower wages, accelerating racism, and growing prostitution to serve foreign-owned hotels and casinos.

For the international working class, the U.S. opening to Cuba can have only one result. Only war can resolve the capitalists’ perpetual fight for markets and cheap labor.

U.S. Police State to Combat Ferguson Rebellions

Obama will use his Cuba scheme and “We are all Americans” rhetoric to recruit more Latin youth into the military, to wage war against our sisters and brothers worldwide on behalf of U.S. imperialism. To pursue these wars, the bosses will intensify fascist measures within the U.S. to stop rebellions by the working class. Exhibit A: The brutal repression of demonstrators in Ferguson, Missouri. The rash of racist killings by cops across the U.S., the poverty wages earned by millions, the mass racist unemployment with no end in sight — the time is ripe for rebellions that the bosses can squash only with increased terror.

The one and only answer to this capitalist hell is communist revolution. Communism is the opposite of capitalism and socialism. It eliminates bosses, cops, profits and all of their evils: racism, the special oppression of women, mass unemployment, poverty, and imperialist war.

Communism: Our Class’s Future

Communism means workers’ power, a society led by the workers’ communist party composed of hundreds of millions of workers. Everyone can become a communist leader. Our class will share all the benefits produced by our labor, the source of all value. This is the only decent future for our class, for our youth. This is what the Progressive Labor Party fights for. Join us! ☺

Forum: Hails Ferguson Rebellion, Shuts Down Streets



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everybody, that’s what really impacted me...Where I come from, [it’s about] them not having a clear view of the world. But y’all give people a chance to open up to y’all...to be themselves...to decide for themselves. I’m going to tell my people that you are real!” The relationship we built among youth we’d just met is based on communist confidence in the working class. PLP aspires to build a world based on collectivity and need, not individualism and profit.

‘We Surpassed Fear’

The following day, Sunday, we marched down Church Avenue in Brooklyn. Kyam Livingston was a 37-year-old Black worker killed in 2013 in a Brooklyn holding cell by gruesome medical neglect. Family and fighters marched despite the brewing terrorization of protesters after the killing of two cops in Bedford-Stuyvesant the day be-

fore (see page 1). Kyam’s mother cried, “I will fight for you, Kyam, until I die. Every day!” As the youth and workers of Ayotzinapa, Mexico, have declared, “They have taken so much from us that they have even taken away our fear.”

As one of our new friends said, “How the officers dedicate their lives to kill us, we gotta dedicate ourselves to fight back. I don’t even know him [Mike Brown], but I’ll put my life on the line... We ain’t got no guns but we staying strong... People ask how you turn up like that. Simple fact is we surpassed fear. Ain’t nobody scared no more.”

Armed with the courage to fight back, multiracial unity will lead to more rebellions. It will open the door to a mass organized movement under communist leadership. With armed struggle to defeat capitalism, an egalitarian communist world where racism, sexism, and imperialist war will be outlawed, will rule the day. ☺

Racist Police Violence and Mass Incarceration Make Us Sick

NEW ORLEANS, November 19 — PLers injected a healthy dose of communist politics into the annual American Public Health Association (APHA) national meeting of over 12,500 health care related workers. The theme of this year's conference was "Healthography" and was focused on the fact that your ZIP code is more important than your genetic code in determining your health.

As we have every year for the past 15 years, a dedicated group of PL members and friends participated in the conference with the goal of spreading our revolutionary ideas, challenging public health workers to think beyond small reforms, and recruiting to PLP. This year's conference was one of our most successful. We helped organize an outstanding session, advanced a policy resolution, and hosted a very successful "Troublemaker's breakfast."

Racist Police Violence and Mass Incarceration Hit Public Health

Louisiana leads the country in prison inmates per capita and their police have a long history of racist brutality and murder. The first speaker exposed how for-profit prisons and jails have proliferated in Louisiana, bringing in money to small communities and police departments. While mass incarceration of Black men is clearly a method of racist social control, this dimension of making money off each inmate is appalling.

Another speaker specifically addressed racist police violence in Chicago — 306 people have been shot by Chicago police in the past 5 years (89 have died), and 75 percent of police shooting victims are Black. She belongs to a community group that petitioned the United Nations to condemn the U.S. for human rights abuses, and this group regularly leads demonstrations against police brutality.

Another young Black woman's talk was on the political economy of racism. She showed how racism leads to the super-exploitation of Blacks, but also hurts workers of all races by dividing us and keeping wages

low. Our session attracted 40 people and led to lively discussion afterwards, as well as many people requesting the special CHALLENGE pamphlet written for the APHA meeting.

When these issues are presented clearly, the limitations of reform (whether it be in healthcare, the prisons or the police) become very clear and lead many to see that the whole capitalist system must be challenged and destroyed.

United Nations Guilty of Bringing Cholera to Haiti

For the second year in a row, a policy statement on the cholera epidemic in Haiti was brought to the APHA Governing Council. The resolution states that the UN troops brought cholera to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake and infected more than 750,000 Haitians and killed more than 8,500 people so far. The resolution states that the UN should pay the \$2.2 billion required for the building of a water and sanitation structure in Haiti to help end cholera there.

The UN tries to hide behind its self-serving claim of immunity from this issue due to their agreement with the Haitian government. This public health crisis and the ensuing UN and international response clearly show how racism and capitalism on the international stage can have devastating consequences. It is similar to the Ebola epidemic currently ravaging West Africa. The resolution was not recommended by the conservative Joint Policy Committee but it still went to a vote before the Governing Council. While it ultimately did not pass, it was a very close vote and many friends and strangers spoke in support.

Although the APHA leadership is clearly afraid to call out the UN, many general members recognize this injustice and want to hold the UN accountable: another example of how the leadership of many mass organizations is way to the right of the membership. We will continue to bring this issue to the APHA and build even more support for it next year.

Troublemaker's Breakfast

We distributed 1,500 copies of a special four-page pamphlet detailing how capitalism destroys any possibility of a healthy society, and that communist revolution is our only chance to create a world where everyone has a right to be healthy. One young woman stated, "I knew this conference would be more interesting than usual when I saw this pamphlet."

We invited interested people to come to our traditional "Troublemaker's breakfast" held on the second to last day of the conference. More than 30 people (mostly students and young professionals) attended the breakfast — we completely filled the restaurant and ran out of chairs!

We broke into two groups for discussion and generated ideas on how to change society and what to do at next year's APHA convention in Chicago. We got everyone's contact information and we will work with them over this coming year to build ties and raise revolutionary ideas.

Current events are politicizing many people and it is up to us to radicalize them further. We need public health workers to join PLP and fight for an equal, healthy society for all of us.✪



Capitalism Dividing Arab, Jewish Workers Since 1948

Imagine that your home will be given, without your consent, to a rich man who will do with it as he pleases and dump you into the street. What would you say then? This is a reality in Kfar Shalem and Givat Amal, two suburbs of Tel Aviv in Israel, where Jewish workers are being expelled from their homes to make room for Israeli bosses to build skyscrapers. These two suburbs were once Arab villages prior to the racist, Zionist expulsion of Arabs in 1948, and now it's Jewish workers being expelled by the Israeli bosses, once again in the name of profit. The fate of Jewish working class families in Givat Amal and Kfar Shalem is no different from their Arab counterparts in the Palestinian villages of El Arakib, Dahamsh and various neighborhoods in East Jerusalem where Palestinian residents are evicted to make room for Zionist settlement projects.

Zionism – Dividing Arab and Jewish Workers since 1948

Under capitalism, the main motive of the bosses to constantly maximize profits. Despite Zionist claims to promote phony all-Jewish unity, the fate of Jewish workers does not interest the Israeli government or the billionaire boss who bought the land, Yitzhak Tshuva, any more than the fate of Palestinian workers expelled in 1948 or today.

In 1948, Givat Amal was built on the ruins of the Palestinian village, Jamasin, whose residents were expelled and Jewish working class families were brought in. Each Jewish family that moved there was given an apartment by the Israeli parliament, supported by David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister and mastermind behind the Palestinian genocide. When Tshuva was asked in an interview to comment on a famous speech by Ben-Gurion containing this empty promise, he replied, "[workers should] go look for Ben-Gurion in the desert."

The cost of living for workers is very high, making the prospect of evacuation a pov-

erty sentence. Tshuva has offered each family \$150,000 to leave Givat Amal, while a two-bedroom apartment in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area costs somewhere between \$5-600,000. For the lower amount, Jewish workers are forced to live 80 miles from Tel Aviv, forcing many workers to leave their jobs and uproot their entire families to a future of unemployment.

Same Enemy, Same Fight

The struggle of Givat Amal residents to save their homes is the same struggle of the expelled Palestinian residents over a half century ago, and is the same struggle of the Arab workers of El Arakib, Dahamsh and the neighborhoods of East Jerusalem now. Jewish and Arab workers have the same enemy — the capitalist class, which in Israel hide behind the genocidal Zionist mask of "Building the Jewish homeland." As communists we must expose the fascist nature of this slogan just like the Nazi "Thousand Year Reich" or the U.S. "American Century" for what they are — attempts to lure workers into supporting local bosses against other workers.

Until both Arab and Jewish workers unite under the red flag of the Progressive Labor Party, both will live with boots on their necks — dead-end Palestinian nationalist groups for the Arab workers, and Zionism for the Jewish workers. The Progressive Labor Party in Palestine as well as elsewhere around the world organizes to unite all workers and to see the connection of their struggles. Only in a society where money is abolished can workers live and raise their families without fear of expulsion or genocide — and only a communist revolution led by the PLP can do it!✪



Colombia Peace Plan Hides Capitalist Agenda

The much hoped-for peace in Colombia as negotiations continue between the government and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) is just another capitalist farce in which the working class has nothing to win. This farce is so shameless that those affected by war, the displaced from the countryside, and the murder victims are only spectators of this process. Misleaders in the political opposition with connections will reap all the benefits of restitution..

Behind the negotiations are the interests of the mining and oil corporations. All those sectors that could benefit Colombia to exploit the working class. These companies only offering miserable salaries and horrible working conditions.

Recently, there is repression against any demand or workers' struggle, with private armies and officers murdering workers and union leaders, as well as the raping of workers and peasant women, which makes more evident the racist and sexist character of exploitation. Capitalists from Europe, the U.S. and Asia want a piece of the pie, so they are offering generous donations to politicians guarantee to buy their right to exploit workers.

World capitalism is in a crisis and the generosity they are trying to show with legislation benefiting undocumented workers in the U.S., and removing the needs for visas in Europe are only tactics to prop up their declining rates of profits. We must pay attention to these conditions and refrain from siding with any capitalist faction. We must organize and fight around PLP's line to develop a communist base and, in the not so distant future, abolish capitalism with the dictatorship of the proletariat. Join PLP.✪

LETTERS

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

INSPIRED AND READY TO FIGHT

The following letters are from young comrades and friends of PLP who participated in the antiracist activities during the Thanksgiving weekend in Ferguson following the courts' refusal to indict killer kkkop Darren Wilson.

Going to Ferguson, I was reminded of how important this struggle is. We are dedicating our lives in working towards a future for the international working class.

This was my first time being arrested and at no point did I lose confidence in the strength of this Party, at no point did I feel like I was being left behind.

The only violence I felt in Ferguson was from the police. The strength, discipline and organization of the PLP were inspiring to myself and the people of Ferguson. We sent a message that cameras and Black police officers are not enough. Mike Brown was not the first and he will not be the last. This struggle is ongoing and it was imperative that the strength of our comrades showed during the protest and that it continues to permeate throughout the working class. We have strength in number. These are our streets and we will continue to fight back until the international working class takes power.

★★★★

This past weekend I was in Ferguson, Missouri, and had a big impact on me. The mere chants and shouts allowed the people of Ferguson who struggle to survive to witness a brief view of solidarity. It was heartening to see people from all over the country come together for a good cause while fighting for justice for Mike Brown and his family as well as all the other young dead Black souls in the field. Fear is just a tool. We have to move ahead with courage.

What precisely inspired me are the traits I've observed and the moments I experienced in my life. Other than those instances, I seldom have what amounts to a direct inspiration.

Our task is to resist. I wish it were different but we must fearlessly accept these circumstances, even embrace them, by focusing our attention on what's going on around us. We will then gain a sharp appreciation for what makes some people advance and others fall behind. Being in Ferguson I was inspired to take that step. In struggle, in love, in humanity, in communism.

★★★★

One thing capitalists do exceptionally well is piss off workers. Workers like Mike Brown's parents, whose child was murdered by the State on August 9th. Darren Wilson was the murderer and as a reward, he raised four thousand dollars from crowd funding and was paid mid-six figures for a George Stephanopolous interview. So for murder, he got presents instead of punishment.

As the bosses anger people every day, it creates an opportunity for our comrades from PLP to remind people of the need for an egalitarian society. We responded to workers' anger by showing solidarity with the people of Ferguson this past weekend. They responded to our display of solidarity with support very step of the way.

I was one of the people who got arrested in Ferguson. In the protest, Fergusonites defended our action. While in the police van, a Fergusonite said "Y'all crazy" for going up against the police. After being arrested, and while being detained for twenty-four hours, Fergusonites thanked us for being on the side of the people. Despite being arrested I knew we did the right thing and as usual, the police were wrong.

Although I joined the Party around 2013 and was active then, I have been around less recently. This weekend renewed my desire to be more active in PLP. Through continuous actions like the ones from this weekend we all got the opportunity to sharpen our political skills. We have a long way to go, but this weekend we won and will continue to show workers our support through our actions all across the world.

★★★★

Ferguson is the best experience I've had with the PLP. All the leadership got arrested and the rest stepped up. As a result, I have much more confidence in the working class.

I learned that what we do has a profound effect on the international working class. The preachers sold us out, but the friends we made last time stood by us. We took the streets and stayed on the streets. We showed workers that they should not be afraid. In fact, it was

the cops who were afraid.

I commend all the people, especially the new ones who stepped up and gave leadership. They made a new banner after the cops stole ours. Our bullhorns were taken but our voices were loud enough to still reach them [the cops and National Guards].

For the experience we gained, for the confidence we gained, this trip was worth everything. We should go back to Ferguson soon. This is one moment in history that can die down soon, but if we take the lessons and apply them, we will grow in numbers and experience. There will be many more Fergusons.

★★★★

The experience in Ferguson was exhilarating and new for me. I've never felt so scared, but empowered in my life. The first night we went to the Ferguson police department and protested. We chanted and eventually we linked up and stepped out in the streets, which the police did not like. A few of us in the PLP got arrested. It was definitely a scary situation, but it showed me how actually peaceful the protesters are and how violent and dangerous the police actually are.

★★★★

After spending 24 hours in jail, our comrades and friends all came out smiling and full of renewed energy, ready to continue the struggle. Those who got arrested on Friday night for defying the cops' rules guaranteed that the rest of us had a great day organizing on Saturday. What we did on Saturday was also inspiring to those who were arrested. It made for a great bus ride home.

Friday night we took the streets for several hours before the final confrontation and arrests. Several on-lookers said it was the most organized and they had seen while they were in Ferguson. We made many connections.

On Saturday, we made more connections, distributed literature and our "Darren Wilson Wanted Posters". We went to a mass meeting and also went door to door. We made more contacts and pulled off a Party dinner — a Forum attended by several of our local rebel leaders.

Communism was everywhere in all kinds of ways during these events. It was a great weekend.

★★★★

I was a participant in the Ferguson project this past weekend. It was an amazing, intense and inspiring experience. Over the weekend our project of mostly college students marched, rallied, met and organized in this town where the anger at the whole capitalist system is so apparent.

Far from the racist media (like CNN) that has been showing the residents of Ferguson as wild and out of control, we have seen just a glimpse of how Black workers here live. In our visit to the projects in Canfield, we learned that there is martial law here. The National Guard, who are permanently positioned in front of the police station, also close down the entrances and exits to public housing between 5 PM and 7 AM. We visited the memorial where Mike Brown was murdered as well.

But we also got a glimpse of how Black workers are fighting back. Every night, a large crowd gather and march. We attended a community meeting with over 500 people who assemble regularly.

I am part of the group that went to Mississippi in 1979. I am honored to have had the opportunity to be with our new generation of brave and dedicated PLP leaders.

★★★★

It was a great weekend of opportunity. It was very scary and frustrating. I was very upset at how the police treated citizens and protestors. These police need to understand that they are violating the rights of the citizens. The first amendment says we can assemble for protesting, marching and rallying. We have a right to speak our mind and to protest. I think the people who were arrested should file lawsuits against the city of Ferguson. If 200 people or more file a lawsuit, it will be on national news. And just maybe the federal government will do more. I think everyone should also file a complaint against the city of Ferguson and the Federal Government.

★★★★

The Ferguson Project was my first protest. When I initially was invited, I immediately decided that I wanted to be a part of such a positive movement. When I asked my mom to go she said no but I quickly came up with a successful lie so that I was able to go. I am glad I did because this trip was an eye opener.

This environment was completely different from what I'm used to. On the first night, we protested in front of the police departure and it was really great to voice our opinions. There were snipers on the top of the building keeping watch and ground troops guarding the courthouse and multiple businesses. There were a lot of Humvees parked, keeping patrol. It felt so surreal, like we were filming a military movie. I was comfortable and felt safe in my group until things got out of control when the police decided to escalate. I saw people being thrown to the ground, getting beaten with batons and getting arrested. People were running for their lives, in fear of getting hit and being the next victim [of police brutality]. They [the police] began to spray those who they couldn't catch with pepper spray and mace. Out of the Progressive Labor Party about 16 were arrested, but we came back stronger than ever the following day to show our support for their bravery.

★★★★

This weekend was by far the most intense, immersive political action I've ever participated in. We accomplished so much, both in terms of community unification and ideological discussion. We lost a lot of out leadership to arrests the first night, but I loved watching our people regroup and reorganize and assume extra responsibilities in order to protect and support one another, the communist cause, and the fight in Ferguson.

★★★★

It was a pleasure to be a part of the Ferguson trip during Thanksgiving weekend. It felt right to fight racism with PLP and our extended working class families. I had been to Ferguson once before, so I was not totally unprepared, but I was still very nervous given the recent aspects of police violence by the local police, State troopers and National Guard.

My fears were realized when I was pepper sprayed in the face and arrested. I spent twenty-four hours in jail, 6 of those hours spent totally blind. Despite this being my first time arrested, there was not one moment I thought the Party would leave me behind. I knew that we were all in this together, as comrades, both inside and outside. We raised our morale and turned our "grueling" prison cells into a bonding moment for all.

★★★★

Although this was not my first experience protesting and rallying for an issue of injustice, it was my first hands on organized demonstration. The grand jury's decision (even though it was expected) affected me a whole lot more than I would have thought. I am fed up with the way my brothers and sisters are threatened daily. After feeling extremely emotional and enraged during the last weeks, going to Ferguson was a great experience. It helped me channel those frustrations towards solving racism and unnecessary murders throughout the world.

★★★★

During our time in Ferguson, I was arrested. My experience in jail and the events I witnessed were inspiring. Though I had seen lots of footage and thought I was following the situation well, the military police surprised me. Though I wish we were better organized in some ways, the discipline of the Party made me feel strong. I am looking forward to carrying on the fight for Eric Garner, for Akai Gurley and for all victims of this fascist State.

★★★★

My first experience protesting in Ferguson was exciting. For the first time I had the chance to say that we're tired of so much injustice and discrimination we are subjected to in the United States. As an immigrant, I want to send a message to all those who are facing the same problems. I believe that if we unite our voices will be heard.

ELECTIONS: Heads They Win, Tails We Lose

The 2014 U.S. Congressional or “midterm” elections were the most expensive non-presidential elections in history, costing a total of at least \$3.67 billion, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. To many workers, that sum of money is enormous, but it is a drop in the bucket compared to the total wealth the capitalists have stolen from the working class.

By understanding how and why elections are funded, we can gain a clearer picture of their role in the dictatorship of the capitalist class. The bosses’ elections will never serve workers’ needs. By sharing this knowledge with our co-workers we can help free them from the illusion of voting and win them to fight for true workers’ power — communism, the dictatorship of the working class — under the banners of the Progressive Labor Party.

Democracy: Heads They Win, Tails We Lose

Elections are an important aspect of capitalist state power as a way to both resolve disputes between the rival capitalist factions and to exert ideological control over the working class. In dominant capitalist countries like the United States, where genocidal levels of Black working class youth are gunned down by the police and immigrants are being deported in record numbers, the bosses hold voting up as the height of all social progress.

Workers in these countries are all too familiar with the campaign circus every two years or so that really amounts to giant advertising campaigns to convince workers to support one ruling class faction versus another. Karl Marx, one of the founders of revolutionary communism, once remarked that in elections “the oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them.” All of these politicians and the immense campaign machinery behind them are merely the puppets of the most powerful — the capitalist class.

One way to understand the power of the rich is to look at how much wealth they have stolen from all that the working class has produced. Net U.S. household wealth — the value of homes, stocks and bonds, cars, bank accounts, etc. minus debts and other liabilities — was \$81.5 trillion in June of 2014. The richest one per-

cent of U.S. families own 40 percent of that, about \$32 trillion.

“The one percent” vs. The Concept of the Capitalist Class

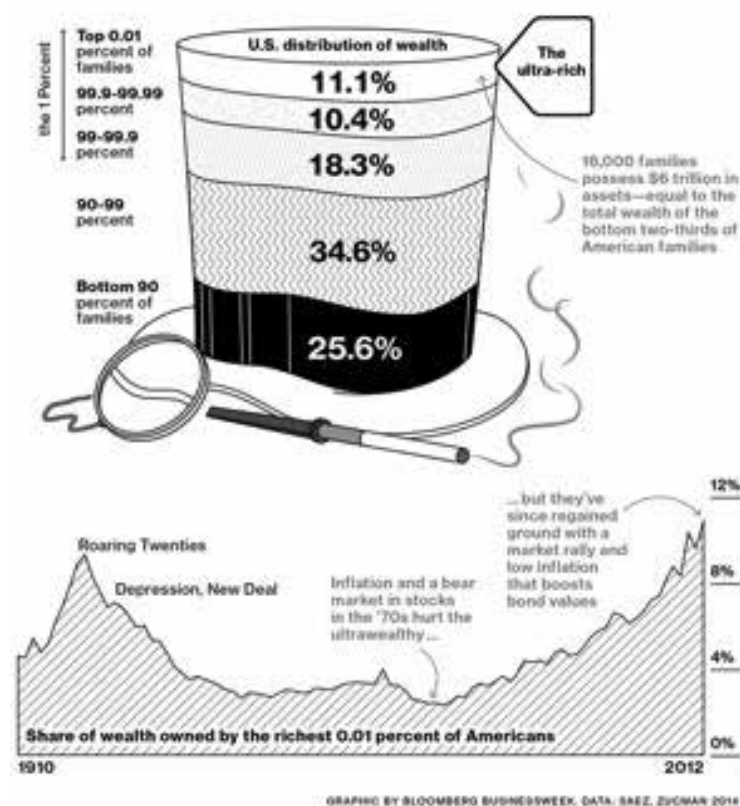
But merely looking at the “richest one percent” is to ignore the class role of most of the people in the so-called “one percent.” The richest one percent includes small business, doctors, lawyers and so on. The vast majority of these people may have large individual sums of money, but are not in control of the institutions vital to U.S. imperialism such as Citigroup, ExxonMobil, J.P. Morgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, etc, which collectively have or control trillions of dollars and determine the course of U.S. government policy.

This number of people is much smaller! Members of the ruling capitalist class are closer to the richest one percent of the one percent, the wealthiest one-hundredth of one percent. That would be roughly one out of every 10,000 U.S. citizens. According to the graph below, these 16,000 families own 11.1 percent of U.S. wealth, or about \$6 trillion dollars.

If these top capitalists and their families spent only one dollar for every thousand dollars they own on electing candidates favorable to their interests, they could spend \$6 billion a year on elections. However, there is no need for them to spend that much, since for the moment a much smaller amount gives them the control they want. In addition, the capitalists have other resources on their side.

The elected politicians are just one facet of capitalist state power, which as CHALLENGE has analyzed (see CHALLENGE 12/10/14) includes not just all levels of government, but also the so-called justice system, the police, the military, the schools as well as the media of both the liberal and conservative varieties.

The New Gilded Age



The Progressive Labor Party fights to smash capitalist state power and replace it with a workers’ dictatorship where in one stroke the unnecessary waste, corruption and ridiculous media frenzy that accompanies it are all done away with. In a workers’ dictatorship, instead of elections and glitzy ad campaigns that revolve around individuals claiming to represent the working class, all workers will be encouraged to take leadership and responsibility for building a new communist world where exploitation, racism and sexism are abolished.

Workers will use state power to repress and eliminate remnants of the old capitalist class and the me-first selfish ideology that supported their rule. To do that we must continue to build the international revolutionary communist PLP, and we invite all workers, students and soldiers to join us!



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

U.S. ‘human rights’? Solitary for jailed kids

NYT, 12/17 — Solitary confinement can be psychologically damaging for any inmate, but is especially perverse when used to discipline children and teenagers. At juvenile detention centers and adult prisons across the country, minors are locked in isolated cells for 22 hours or more a day....

A major study...in 2003 showed that more than 15 percent of young people in juvenile facilities, some as young as 10, had been held in solitary....Putting teenagers in solitary was more widespread in adult jails and prisons....In 2013 as many as a quarter of adolescents held at New York City’s Rikers Island were in solitary confinement....[some] for more than six months....

No state — nor the federal government — has banned the solitary confinement of teens in adult jails or prisons....

...Girls...told [adjunct professor Ian Kysel] that the experience brought back traumatic memories of rape and abuse....One girl who spent four months in solitary...at 16...said, “It was like being sunk in a hole”....

...More than half of the minors who had killed themselves had done so in isolation. And in adult jails...more than 40 teenagers...had committed suicide since 2000....

Mythical ‘informers,’ cops plant guns, arrest innocents

NYT, 12/12 — The tip comes from a confidential informer. Someone has a gun....minutes later find a man matching the informer’s detailed description. A gun is discovered; an arrest is made....by police...in the 67th precinct in East Flatbush, Brooklyn....[The same cops] arrest at least two other men....The suspects said the guns were planted by the police.

There were other similarities: Each gun was found in a plastic bag or a handkerchief with no traces of the suspect’s fingerprints....None of the informers have come forward, even when defense lawyers and judges have requested they appear in court....

The judge in [Mr. Hooper’s]...called the police version of events “incredible.”

In another example....a federal gun case...was later dismissed and led to a \$115,000 settlement....A federal judge said she believed that the “officers perjured themselves....”

Another defense lawyer...suggested in court papers that a group of officers invents criminal informers and...make false arrests to help satisfy department...quotas. They also question whether the police are collecting the \$1,000 rewards offered to informers from Operation Gun Stop, especially in cases where the informers never materialize.

Belgium: general strike against austerity halts rail, air traffic

NYT/AP, 12/13 — A general strike paralyzed air and rail traffic in Belgium and idled scores of companies...capp[ing] a month of labor action against government austerity policies. The strikers were angered by measures taken by the nation’s business-friendly government to cut...employees’ income, extend working time and restrict social services....Brussels Airport, a busy hub...had no traffic whatsoever. The high-speed rail links serving London and France and the Netherlands were also halted....The series of labor actions, the toughest in years, started last month with a demonstration that drew about 120,000 protesters.

‘Legacy of discrimination’: Black family assets one-thirteenth of whites

NYT, 12/13 — The wealth gap between minorities and whites has continued to increase...according to...the Pew Research Center....The median net worth of white households in 2013 was \$144,900, or 13 times that of Black households at \$19,200....In 2007, [it]...was 10

times....

Wealth is defined as the value of an accumulated sum of assets...stocks and bonds, retirement accounts or real estate subtracted from the debt that is owed against those assets. It is built up over time and tends to increase with age....This in part explains the widening racial gap because Blacks tend to earn less than whites and have less assets than whites...to pass on to future generations....

A “legacy of discrimination,” including lower levels of education and depressed property values... [have] played a role in the widening wealth gap....

Racist cop murderers weave ‘one big Hollywood fiction’

NYT, 11/27 — ...A Bronx teenager was shot and killed by a New York City police sergeant....who said that Lionel Disla, 19, waved a long kitchen knife...before he was shot....

Ilann Maazel, a lawyer for Mr. Disla’s mother, said... “there were giant holes in the police story....

“He was...coming at me with a knife, Sergeant Barnett testified....I was in fear for my safety.”

Barnett shot...Mr. Disla twice...; he died a few hours later.

Lawyers for Mr. Disla’s family argued that he had never even held a knife that night.

Mr. Maazel called the police officer’s story “one big Hollywood fiction.”

...Detectives at the scene had initially found no fingerprints on the “knife”....

New testimony from an eyewitness, Juan Polanco,...testified...that he signed statements saying the Mr. Disla had a knife only pressured from detectives....

“I had never seen the knife on his hand or nothing,” Mr. Polanco testified....

Sergeant Barnett said the Mr. Disla was...charging directly at him when he fired, an account that a doctor who examined the autopsy said was impossible.

WWI Soldiers Point Way to Stop War Machine

Communists Smash Nazis, U.S. Hires Them

When CHALLENGE identifies U.S. rulers as mass murderers in imperialist genocidal wars from Vietnam to the Middle East and South Asia as well as executioners on the streets of U.S. cities, they have a direct link to Hitler's Nazis as revealed in a just-published book by Eric Lichtblau, *The Nazis Next Door: How America Became a Safe Haven for Hitler's Men*. It reveals that U.S. government officials employed "approximately 10,000 Nazis, some of whom had played pivotal roles in the [World War II Nazi] genocide" (New York Times book review, 11/2) against Jews, communists, trade unionists and anti-Nazi resistance fighters. After World War II, the CIA and FBI worked hand-in-glove with top Nazis who were guilty of mass murder. This included "more than 1,600 scientists...[who] had developed the chemicals for the gas chambers, or conducted experiments on concentration camp prisoners" (NYT review).

"U.S. agencies...hired numerous ex-Nazi police officials and East European collaborators who were manifestly guilty of war crimes" (NYT, 10/27).

CIA director Allen Dulles and FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover "aggressively recruited...Nazis" from the highest levels "as secret, anti-Soviet 'assets'" (NYT, 11/2). They hired over 1,000 Nazis as anti-communist spies and informants, beginning even during World War II. "In March 1945,... American spy chief...Dulles conducted a friendly fireside chat...with Nazi general Karl Wolff, the closest associate of SS leader Heinrich Himmler...[and] a leader of the Waffen SS [Gestapo]....When prosecutors sought to try Wolff at Nuremberg" as a war criminal, Dulles intervened and "worked to have his name removed from the list of defendants" (NYT).

Dulles's CIA hired SS officer Otto von Bolschwing as a spy in Europe, knowing that he "was a mentor and top aide to Adolf Eichmann, architect of the 'Final Solution'" and who "wrote policy papers on how to terrorize Jews." The CIA then relocated him in New York City as "a reward for his loyal post-war service" (NYT, 10/27).

"In Maryland, Army officials trained several Nazi officers in paramilitary warfare for a possible invasion of Russia....In Virginia, a top advisor to Hitler gave classified briefings on Soviet affairs. And in Germany, SS officers infiltrated Russian-controlled zones, laying surveillance cables and monitoring trains" (NYT, 10/27).

CIA files linked senior Nazi collaborator Aleksandras Lieikis "to the machine-gun massacres of 60,000 Jews in Lithuania. He worked 'under the control of the Gestapo during the war'.... Even so, the agency hired him in 1952 as a spy in East Germany...and cleared the way for him to immigrate to America....[where] he lived quietly for nearly 40 years" (NYT).

FBI director Hoover "personally approved...ex-Nazis as informants and dismissed...their wartime atrocities as Soviet propaganda." In 1980, "FBI officials...knew about 16...Nazis living in the United States.... [and] memos show...the 16 men had all worked as FBI informants, providing leads on Communist 'sympathizers.' Five of the men were still active informants."

According to Florida University historian Norman Goda, "The full tally of Nazis-turned-spies is probably much higher...but many records remain classified even today, making a complete count impossible" (NYT, 10/27).

All this U.S. government use of Nazis in the name of anti-communism occurred for 50 years since the 1940s under every U.S. president, whether Democrat or Republican. Voting for any one of them meant voting for rulers who collaborated with racist mass murderers. This should leave no doubt among workers in the U.S. and worldwide that the U.S. ruling class will be ready and willing to employ full-blown fascism to maintain its profit system. It was the communist leadership of the working class in the Soviet Union and China that defeated Hitler's Nazis and the Japanese fascists in World War II. Only a communist revolution can smash these barbarians now.✪

One hundred years ago, four million soldiers were facing off in frozen trenches stretching over 800 kilometers (500 miles), from Switzerland to the Belgian coast. By December, 1914, World War I had killed or wounded 85,000 British, 850,000 French and 677,000 German soldiers on the Western front.

As Joseph Stalin later said, the world socialist misleaders betrayed the working class and made the slaughter possible: "On the very eve of the war...the workers were given a new slogan — to exterminate each other for the glory of their capitalist fatherlands."

One soldier remembered, "In Christmas time, on the 24th of December... [we] were not at all unfriendly...against the enemy. There was a feeling in the air: 'we can't go on killing each other today.' And this was a mutual feeling on both sides."

Rank-and-file soldiers began spontaneous, unofficial truces all along the battle line. Lance Corporal George Ashurst, of the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers recalled: "It started by 'Well, Merry Christmas, lads! You know, talking in the trench. We can hear Jerry [German soldiers]...chatting quite loudly....singing a Christmas carol, you know, in German. And damn good singing, too. We're shouting: 'Go on, Jerry!'.... 'Encore!' we're shouting. And a fellow comes next, playing a cornet.... It was beautiful to hear him play it. And we were shouting: 'Hurray!' And there was no more shooting."

Once it stopped, they came out of the trenches and met.

German artillery officer Richner remembered: "The fraternization between the both lines came to a climax when at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon about ten or twelve soldiers of our trenches and about the same number of French soldiers came to the middle of the two lines. The trenches were about 300 meters from each other, and [they] met there on the barbed wire and had champagne and wine and cigarettes to exchange, and then they came back."

But fraternization continued. Ernie Williams, of a Cheshire regiment reminisced: "Somehow, this football appeared,...But we didn't form a team.... It was a kick-about, everybody was having a go. ... Boy, it was grand.... Kicked it about on top. Just to keep warm, of course.... And do you know, there were fellows walking about on top of our trench,...at tea time, and not a shot had been fired."

...The soldiers began talking....One began to think that these chaps, who were like ourselves, whom we liked, and who felt about the war as we



German soldiers of the 134th Saxon Regiment and British soldiers of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment meet in no man's land, December 26, 1914

did..."

As the soldiers met, they questioned what they were being told and realized they had more in common with the working-class soldiers across the battlefield than with their own capitalist politicians and commanders.

Ernie Williams remembered: "I was thinking it was altogether wrong that we were having this war. Them fellows don't want to fight us.... They're ordinary people, like me. And they don't want to fight. It's the generals and them people that started this scrapping."

The military command on both sides moved quickly to end the Christmas truce.

George Ashurst remembered: "We got orders: 'Get back in your trenches, every man!' The generals behind must have seen it and got a bit suspicious. Oh! We were cursing them to hell. Cursing the generals.... 'Want to get up here in this stuff? Never mind your big giving orders in your big chateaux and driving about in your big cars! Yes. We hated the sight of bloody generals. We always did, all through the war! They gave orders for a battery of guns behind us to fire and the machine gun to open out.... Officers fired their revolvers at the Jerries, you know. Course, that started the war again."

The 1914 Christmas truce demonstrated both the immense potential of the working class — able to halt a ferocious world war after five months of bitter combat — and the cruel weakness of spontaneous, unorganized action.

In 1917, Russian soldiers through the Bolshevik revolution exposed to communist refused to continue the war against Germany. But later, turned their guns against the Russian tsars and formed a workers' state on one-sixth of the earth's surface. It is only by organizing a revolutionary communist party that the working class can realize decisive victories over the ruling class.✪

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