

CHALLENGE



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COMMUNISM STILL HAUNTS BOSSES



In his State of the Union address, Barack Obama called for “middle-class economics” — a brand of capitalism where workers would keep a bigger piece of the pie. But Obama’s latest promise is so much pie in the sky. A system based on the exploitation of the working class — and enforced by capitalists’ state power — can never serve workers’ needs. The two classes are diametrically opposed. “Middle-class economics” reflects an embattled, crisis-ridden U.S. ruling class that is running scared — scared of what could become a communist working-class revolution.

The day after Obama’s speech, in an opinion piece headlined, “Can Capitalists Save Capitalism?” the New York Times referenced a May 2014 conference in London. The Conference topic was “inclusive capitalism,” a concept put forward in

2002 by academics at the University of Michigan and Cornell. In a widely cited article, “The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid,” they pointed to the potential profit that could be generated by “the fourth tier,” the world’s poorest four billion people.

Addressing the London conference was Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, which impoverishes workers worldwide on behalf of U.S. bankers. Despite the reversals of the revolutions in the Soviet Union and China, communism remains the main threat to capitalist rulers around the world. Lagarde echoed Marx’s warning that capitalism, as she paraphrased, “carried the seeds of its own destruction, the accumulation of capital in the hands of a few, mostly focused on the accumulation of profits....”

Speaking for her fellow bosses, Lagarde voiced

concern about “high unemployment, rising social tensions, and growing political disillusion — all of this happening in the wake of the Great Recession. One of the main casualties has been trust — in leaders, in institutions, in the free market system itself.” She pointed to a recent poll showing that fewer than one in five people believed that “governments or business leaders would tell the truth on an important issue.”

The contradiction of capitalism is that it is ultimately undermined by the inequality that creates profit, the system’s lifeblood. As Lagarde acknowledged, “The 85 richest people in the world, who could fit into a single London double-decker [bus], control as much wealth as the poorest half of the global population — that is 3.5 billion people....This is a wakeup call.”

Rulers’ Worry: Marx Was Right

As Progressive Labor Party has pointed out, only the destruction of the capitalist profit system — and its bosses, wars, racism and sexism, exploitation and permanent mass unemployment — can solve our class’s problems. Only a communist society, led by the working class and its revolutionary party, can end the rulers’ atrocities.

Obama’s capitalist benefactors cooked up his phony “redistribution” scheme in their think tanks. Knowing full well that a Republican-dominated Congress would block them, Obama proposed tax hikes on big banks and the rich to pay for tax credits and free community college for working families. But the Democrats and Republicans are two wings of the same racist, anti-worker organization. While they may differ on tactics and occasionally on strategy, their goal is always the same: to squeeze maximum profits out of the working class.

Like all capitalist politicians, Obama has no intention of helping our class. His job is to dupe more workers into voting and accepting tightened government control. U.S. rulers, top dogs since World War II, face intensifying challenges from their imperialist rivals — China, Russia, Japan, and the European Union. Global conflict is edging closer by the day. The U.S. imperialists desperately need to convince U.S. workers that they have a stake in fighting — and dying — for the profit system.

At the London conference, Lagarde endorsed “inclusive capitalism” as “the response to Marx’s dire prediction,” and the key “to capitalism’s survival and regeneration.” By critiquing income inequality, liberal capitalists hope to mislead workers and quell the recent wave of rebellions from

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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

Communism Still Haunts Bosses

Continued from front page

Mexico to Turkey to Gaza to Ferguson, Missouri.

Racism Essential to Capitalism’s Existence

Racist exploitation is the cornerstone of capitalism. The U.S. bosses reap more than \$600 billion annually in super-profits from the gap in family income between white workers and Black or Latin workers. The profit system is the source of racist cop terror and the murders of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. It is the root of segregated housing and schools and of third-rate health care. It’s the foundation for the racist, criminal injustice system, where 70 percent of the 2.2 million prisoners in U.S. prisons and jails are Black or Latin.

When white workers are won to accept these racist attacks, it weakens the fightback of the entire working class. As a result, the capitalists are freer to maintain their profits with mass layoffs during recessions and depressions — and to drag down white workers’ wages and conditions, as well.

Racist inequalities are pervasive in capitalism. Witness the corporate movement to low-wage countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa, where two billion workers try to survive on \$2 a day. Or the racist anti-immigrant attacks in the European Union, where “foreign” workers are widely blamed for rising unemployment.

In their efforts to buy working-class loyalty, U.S. rulers could afford jobs programs and improvements in workers’ standard of living during and immediately after World War II. But the current generation of U.S. bosses, beset on many fronts, cannot. The 1950’s American Dream — a good union job, a cheap home mortgage, college for the kids, a decent pension — was a reality for some workers of that era, most of them white. In 2015, it is a stinking lie.

Bosses’ Big Concern: Workers’ Revolution

On January 15, the Inclusive Prosperity Commission weighed in on the current crisis of world capitalism. The report’s authors were ex-U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and British Labor Party hack



Myth of the ‘Middle Class’

Obama, alongside his political buddies and the bosses’ media, constantly invoke the mythological “middle class” while never mentioning the working class. They are trying to convince workers who earn — or who aspire to earn — \$50,000 or \$75,000 a year that they are not workers. They want to hide the reality of a working class with its antagonistic relationship with an opposing, parasitic ruling class. The latter controls the means of production and reaps profits from exploiting worker’s labor power, the source of all value. Capitalists own; workers create.

Many workers’ struggles may have won incomes that enable them to afford a home, a car and a college education for their children, but they have no security under capitalism. Come the next crisis of overproduction and the next wave of mass unemployment, these higher-earning workers promptly get laid off and made homeless. Their “middle-class” life goes up in smoke. One’s class is not determined by income, but rather by the source of that income.

Ed Balls. Published by the Center for American Progress, the study was solely funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. In effect, it rated working-class revolution as more dangerous than the menaces posed by China, Russia, ISIS or al Qaeda:

The primary challenge democracies face is neither military nor philosophical. Rather, for the first time since the Great Depression, many industrial democracies are failing to raise living standards and provide opportunities for social mobility to a large share of their people....This is an economic problem that threatens to become a problem for the political systems of these nations — and for the idea of democracy itself.

The “economic problem” for these “democracies” (the term the bosses use for their electoral dictatorships) is capitalism, the profit system itself. The capitalists control state power — the apparatus of government, the military, courts, cops, and media — and use it to protect their profits. While the capitalists may temporarily improve workers’ pay and conditions, their system requires the absolute exploitation of our class. Any scraps they throw at us are taken back in their next economic crisis.

The Center for American Progress squarely represents the capitalist class. It was founded by John Podesta, Bill Clinton’s chief of staff during the bloody bombing of Bosnia and now top campaign advisor to war-maker Hillary Clinton. Its number two is Madeleine Albright, Clinton’s mass-murdering Secretary of State. When asked in 2001 about the deaths of half a million Iraqi children by U.S. sanctions that withheld food and medicine, Albright told CBS TV, “We think the price is worth it.”

Join and Build PLP

PLP’s goal is to destroy these butchers and smash the system behind them. With workers’ trust in the capitalist government and system on the wane, it is time to sharpen struggles in all our organizations and lead workers against this failing society. We have a tremendous opportunity to win masses to join and build the Progressive Labor Party and a communist future.✴

Bosses' Media Sells Lies and Racism



BALTIMORE CITY, January 14 — For the 76th time, ever since the brutal racist police murder of unarmed Black worker Tyrone West in July of 2013, a weekly West Wednesday rally was held today, demanding justice!

Mr. West, aged 44, was beaten to death by 12 to 15 cops, after a traffic stop during which they dragged him by his dreads out of his car. The cops called Mr. West the “N” word several times, maced him, tasered him and beat him.

A witness said — after Mr. West tried to escape from the unbearable beating, and ran a short distance to a nearby alley — that officers caught up with him and started beating him again, this time with batons on his head and back. Another witness said he was at a relative’s house and had gone outside when he heard women screaming.

He “vividly remembers” one of the officers “cocking his arm all the way back, and laying a haymaker [a punch using a person’s full strength, intended as a knockout] on the man. At this point, he was already definitely down, and I didn’t see any movement.”

Racist News Station Attacks Anti-racist

This week, the West family, along with the Baltimore Bloc organization and other activists, rallied outside FOX45-TV at night, in the bitter cold, but as always with bold and inspiring determination! There has been a West Wednesday rally every week, regardless of rain, freezing temperatures, or snow!

We held this week’s rally at FOX45 because on December 21, the day immediately after the crazed shooting of two cops in New York City, FOX45 repeatedly aired a false and vicious accusation. Fox45 claimed that Mr. West’s sister, Ms. Tawanda Jones, along with others, had been chanting “We won’t stop! We can’t stop, so kill a cop!” at the large Justice for All protest in Washington DC one week earlier. In actuality, the chant was, “We can’t stop! We won’t stop, until killer cops are in cell blocks!”

The manipulated video seeming to show Ms. Jones saying “Kill a cop” was an attempt to discredit and weaken the massive, nationwide fight against police terror. In fact, that lie, first aired repeatedly by FOX45, was then aired nationally by many TV stations. In addition, the on-air distortion put a life-threatening target on the back of

‘It’s Not Just Fox, It’s A Capitalist Cartel’

Beyond the Sinclair Broadcast Group, it’s also important to recognize that the nationwide FOX network is not — as many people think — a fringe conservative voice, largely disconnected from the rest of capitalist media and business. The truth is that FOX News is owned by 21st Century Fox. The number-two owner of 21st Century Fox — after Rupert Murdoch — is Prince Al-Waleed, the 16th-richest man in the world, and a nephew of the late king of Saudi Arabia, an important ally of powerful U.S. oil companies.

In addition to FOX, Al-Waleed has investments in Apple and Twitter. He also has big stakes in rival media giants Time Warner and Disney. Time Warner owns HBO, Cinemax, Turner Broadcasting, CNN, Warner Brothers and DC Comics. Disney owns Pixar, Lucasfilm, ABC, ESPN and Marvel. Even more significantly, Al-Waleed helped rescue the U.S. banking giant Citigroup twice, and he is one of its largest investors. The members of the Board of Directors of Citigroup, who hire and fire the CEO, and make policy for that powerful bank, also sit on — and interlock with — the Boards of Directors for many other major corporations including Target, Ford, Estée Lauder, Pepsi, Comcast, AT&T, Halliburton, Johnson & Johnson, and American Airlines.

Simply put, FOX and Baltimore’s dirty-dozen cops are not the only ones guilty of criminal behavior. It’s the whole capitalist class of super-rich business owners who don’t care whom they hurt in order to preserve their wealth and keep the working class in its place. They use racism to justify a third of their blood-soaked annual profits, derived from paying Black and Latin workers less than white workers. And they also use racism to divide, weaken and conquer the whole working class — of all skin colors — who suffer with low wages and meager benefits, whether working for the country’s largest private employer, Walmart, or working just about anywhere else.

In the struggle against racism and police brutality, we need to defeat the entire capitalist class, not just FOX. What’s needed, after revolution, is a new world in which racism can finally be defeated, a world of sisterhood and brotherhood where we share the benefits of our hard work for the good of all, without rich and without poor.

Progressive Labor Party calls that way of life communism, and — let’s be clear — if we want to end police brutality, we need to dedicate our lives to the struggle for that new world, run by and for the working class. Dare to struggle! Dare to win!

Growth Brings New Energy

LOS ANGELES, January 28 — PLers and friends here got a much-needed boost this week-end with our communist school. It was a short trip but we left energized. We held two workshops: on the fight against racism and on building a base in the working class.

There were several highlights. Two friends joined PLP. One, a masonry worker, who also has some culinary skill, cooked for us with some collective support. In the racism workshop, we deepened our understanding of the history of racism and capitalism. We continued the discussion on Black workers key to communist revolution.

Moreover, the discussion on building ties in the working class, in mass organizations in particular, led to the second recruit — a Black worker and community organizer.

In between workshops we socialized, ran, played soccer, cooked, cleaned and ate collectively.

There were weaknesses. One was not talking enough about how to improve the fight for communism on our jobs and schools in the upcoming year. Nonetheless, we will continue these discussions in our clubs. With renewed energy and two commitments to the Party, we hope to intensify the struggles in our places of work, campuses, high schools and mass organizations with the aim of building for a much larger May Day contingent and recruiting more workers and youth to the Party. ☺

Ms. Jones, who is well-known to Baltimore police as a leader of the West Wednesday rallies and a strong participant in many additional actions opposing terror and murder by racist police. Those who killed Mr. West are still on the force. No charges have been pressed against them.

Just two weeks earlier, a couple of the cops who were involved in beating Tyrone West to death had also severely beaten another Black man, Mr. Abdul Salaam. However, if those two cops had quickly faced appropriate justice for the beating of Mr. Salaam, then Tyrone West might still be alive today!

Reacting quickly after the lies aired on FOX45, members of the West family and supporters repeatedly contacted the station, and strongly insisted the story be retracted. FOX45 nevertheless ran the lie yet again but, in the end, the station had no choice but to come clean (well, partly clean), because the original, unedited video clip, clearly showing the real chant — which demanded that killer cops be put in cell blocks — was available for everyone to see on the internet. Under pressure, FOX45 interviewed Ms. Jones, and did indeed show that interview on their station. They also apologized on air, but called the manipulated video a “mistake,” refusing to admit it was done on purpose.

In addition, FOX45 fired two people: the reporter, Melinda Roeder, and also the cameraperson, Greg McNair. However, those two seem to have been used as fall guys for higher-ups. As the Baltimore Sun newspaper reported, “Roeder said the idea for the story came from station management — it was not hers. FOX45 management has declined to discuss how the edit came to be.”

There’s an important lesson in all this. At first glance, it may seem that, yes, FOX is super-conservative, racist, and dishonest. No surprise.

TV, Radio, Movies All Part of the Bosses’ Propaganda Machine

It’s important, however, to dig deeper. As it turns out, FOX45 is owned by the Sinclair Broadcast Group, and their reach goes far beyond just FOX. In fact, Sinclair is one of the largest and most diversified television broadcasting companies in the U.S. today. They own and operate, do the programming, or provide sales services to 162 television stations in 79 markets. Sinclair’s television group reaches approximately 37.5 percent of all U.S. households, and includes FOX, ABC,

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Fighting Racist Murders and Slumlords

NEW YORK CITY, January 19 — PLP and friends upped the ante against racist cops and slumlords under the leadership of Black, Latin, and Asian women this Martin Luther King (MLK) weekend. Over 1,000 CHALLENGEs were distributed. This weekend was yet another demonstration that workers *will* fight back under communist leadership. The ability for the international working class to abolish capitalism hinges on making anti-racism and anti-sexism central to our fight. With PLP, such a world is possible.

Church Avenue: Trail of KKKillings

We kicked off the weekend with a long march against racist cops down Brooklyn's Church Avenue in the bone-chilling cold. The rally began at the site of murder of Kimani Gray, a 16-year-old Black teen killed by racist cops Mourad Mourad and Jovaniel Cordova in March, 2013. Over 50 workers and students shut down the street. Many, some pushing their children in strollers, joined the march.

We stopped traffic in all directions with a picket on E. 38th and Church, where 23-year-old Black woman Shantel Davis was killed by the racist black detective Phillip Atkins in June, 2012. Though all these cops have a history of racist assaults and the city was forced to pay out millions to victims of previous attacks, NYPD awarded some of these cops for "heroism."

The march ended with a rally on E. 18th and Church, where we regularly protest for Kyam Livingston, a 37-year-old Black woman worker. Kyam was killed in by the cops who deliberately refused to give her medical attention at Brooklyn Central Booking in July, 2013. Three powerful women took the mike; all three were brought into the struggle by the murderous NYPD. It is no accident that Black women, who are ruthlessly exploited by the bosses' state, are leading the fight against the racist cops and courts.

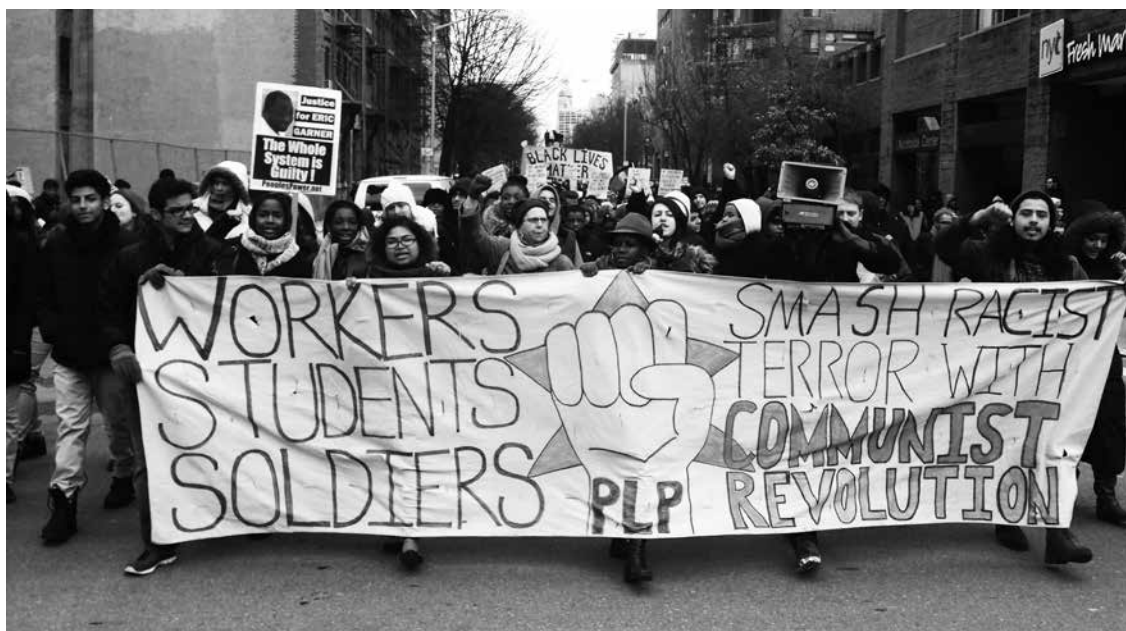
Reds, Not Experts

Saturday's mini-communist school was led by fresh recruits from PLP's Ferguson project. Three Black and Asian women introduced the recently published Fight Racism pamphlet and facilitated discussion. In one group, participants talked about how to live an anti-racist life while living under racism. Capitalism has divided our class so much that we must make a conscious effort to foster multiracial relationships in our lives. Another group pointed out that racism is an international fight and that abolishing borders is crucial to abolishing racism.

Why is it significant that this school was led not by the veteran white comrades, but by the handful of Black and Asian women who recently joined the fight for communism? PLP doesn't believe in experts! For a communist revolution to succeed, masses of workers must learn and fight for our ideas. Under capitalism — where women workers are silenced, objectified, battered, abused, raped, and exploited — it is no small victory that our fight for workers' power is led by Black, Latin, and Asian women. We train those most oppressed to be in leadership, for it is their class experience that will advance the revolution.

Turn Up the Heat on Slumlord

One Black woman, a youth worker who recently joined PLP, and her family have been suffering under their racist and sexist slumlord, Fred Basal, who refused



to provide heat during winter. This forced the family to boil water to keep warm. One pot accidentally fell on two children. They got second-degree burns. Basal not only refused to help with the medical bills and provide heat, he also pushed for rent!

This is no isolated incident. During the coldest months of 2013 and 2014, New York City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) received over 200,000 heat and hot water complaints. And so, this Saturday, a PLP contingent went to Basal's office in Jamaica, Queens to turn up the heat against this racist and sexist slumlord. We chanted, "Fred Basal, Just Face it! You're a Slumlord and a Racist/Sexist!"

The youth worker is the main breadwinner of over seven people in her home. This system gets away with oppressing Black women and their families through poverty wages, slum housing, abusive healthcare, and the systemic terrorization of our kids in the schools and on the streets. Under capitalism, Black mothers don't have "the right to raise their children in a healthy environment." Our working-class kids are dispensable for the bosses. Only a communist system will allow Black workers, women workers, and youth to live to their full potential. The basis of racism and sexism — exploitation and profit — will be smashed.

Small But Strong

A multiracial crowd of over 400 gathered at the "Dream4Justice" march in Harlem on MLK Monday. Local black politicians like Jumaane Williams preached from the podium about upholding the traditions of peaceful protesting. These misleaders have nothing to offer us but rotten ideas like voting for our next capitalist dictator. The ruling class will only fund politicians, organizations, and ideas that will sustain capitalism.

Liberal imperialist George Soros, funder of movements like Occupy and the Color Revolutions worldwide, granted \$33 million to organizations such as the Hands Up Coalition and other Black Lives Matter organizations. In the crowd, a small but strong group of PLers held a banner for communist revolution — the solution that needs millions of workers and youth, not politicians and grants. We attracted many who took up literature and followed our chants.

In particular, a group of high school students from the Bronx gathered around us. They loved the chant "Racist Cops You Can't Hide — We Charge You with Genocide!" For many, it was their first time at a march or on a bullhorn; they were inspired by the young PLers who encouraged the students to chant. It is under communist leadership that we see the potential for our Black, Latin, and immigrant youth unfold.

Ready for May Day!

This weekend also included initiating the May Day organizing committee. May Day is a celebration of the international working class, the day we look back on our year of organizing, and look forward to what more must be done. Come celebrate May Day, a communist holiday, with the international communist Progressive Labor Party on May 2!🇵🇸

Bosses' Media Sells Lies and Racism

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MyTV, CW, CBS, NBC, Univision and Azteca affiliates.

In other words, the lie, about Ms. Tawanda Jones' chanted wording, was not just a FOX lie. It was a lie by the whole spectrum of capitalist-owned media. When fired reporter Melinda Roeder let the cat out of the bag and — probably telling the truth in this instance — said the manipulated news coverage came from above, who knows from how high up the order the lie originated.

One thing for sure, the lie benefitted the entire capitalist class, which needs racism and police terror as part of its ruthless effort to keep the working class oppressed and under control. Maybe a brain-washed station manager, seeing life through the lens of sick capitalist culture, made the decision. Or maybe someone in the know, much higher in the media hierarchy, gave the order. Either way, it was not simply a conservative local FOX reporter, doing her own predictable distortions. It was the media, owned and controlled by the capitalist class, doing what their class needs.

On a personal level, as a result of the media's cold-blooded decision to air a shameless lie about Ms. Tawanda Jones, they have put her in grave, ongoing danger. On a daily basis, Ms. Jones is receiving threats. Ever since the airing of the lie about her on nationwide TV on December 21, she has also been enduring nightmares, and is no longer able to sleep well.

Nevertheless, despite these personal difficulties created by the capitalist class, Ms. Jones together with similarly courageous family members remain steadfast in their commitment to the struggle. They are fighting to win justice for her brother, for all victims of police brutality, and for everyone else who may one day face that same fate.🇵🇸



Building PLP in Colombia

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA — At the end of the year we held several sport matches and social activities where we collected toys for children and money for comrades in need. More than 60 youth from different areas participated, with some giving reports of their daily lives and activities. We pointed out that we all have the same problems with poverty: racism, low salaries, sexism, fascism and all the rottenness that makes up this criminal profit system.

We're a youth sporting group of students and workers active in the Party, who get orientation from CHALLENGE and PL comrades. With their help, we've structured the group to have communist ideas lead every aspect of our lives. Every May Day we demonstrate our commitment to the revolutionary cause by mobilizing youth for a spirited march on International Workers Day.

We decided to organize and provide leadership to our working class sisters and brothers to fulfill our historical mission of burying capitalism. We reject this rotten system that murders our comrade sisters and brothers. The current bosses' system does not serve our class interest. We don't want to continue living in this system of corrupt politicians, unemployment, enslaved labor, drug addiction, prostitution, abortions, alcoholism, and bosses' violence.

Nor do we want jails where thousands of humble people languish, or recruitments for imperialist wars, or hunger, evictions, police repression, and sickness. In short, the capitalist system is a failure for all workers and for our youth.

We highlighted the importance of PLP in our lives and the need to get organized to follow the path of class struggles guided by our international unified party. It is very important for us to realize the potential of these comrades because it gives us hope and strength to continue fighting to take collective communist power. We are committed to building new revolutionary study and action collectives, writing and expanding our CHALLENGE networks.✊

Fascist Backing Fascist to Win Workers

Recent violent events in France attracted worldwide attention: the murder of twelve journalists and artists at the offices of the racist magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, and the murder of 4 hostages at a Kosher supermarket in Paris. Since Muslims committed these acts, the French right-wingers and their colleagues in Israel are quick to blame all Muslims everywhere for these acts. But this is a racist lie: to say that all Muslims are terrorists because a few terrorists happen to be Muslim, is like saying that all Jews are greedy because Bernard Madoff is one. Both are racist ideas, and both serve fascism well, by strengthening nationalism and fear, and pushing workers into the hands of the ruling-class in its plans for war and repression, justified as "fighting terrorism."

Openly slandering Muslims, and openly attacking its most basic beliefs, helps the Right, such as the neo-Nazi "Front Nationale" ("National Front") in France. Racist caricatures published in the background of anti-Arab and anti-Muslim racism are used by the regime to strengthen its repressive apparatus. Terrorist attacks against civilians and journalists also strengthen this regime — as now there is a "security threat" and thus the rulers can justify all sorts of repressive acts. A point often forgotten in the bosses' media discussion of the events in Paris was that of the heroism of Lassana Bathily, a black Muslim worker who saved the lives of multiple Jewish customers when he hid them in the store's refrigerator when the terrorists attacked. Working-class people protect each other when faced with violence and fascism; but the fascists are quick to denounce all Muslims as "terrorists."

The war criminal and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was quick to jump on the bandwagon and fly to France — and call the French Jews to "do Aliyah" (emigrate to Israel) because "France is not safe" for them. But to what kind of place does he invite them to come? To a state where he and his colleagues fight an endless succession of wars in service of their U.S. imperialist patrons! To a country where, like in any other capitalist country, the working-class is a

milking-cow of taxes to fill the bosses' pockets in bail-outs and fill the generals store-houses with means of destruction? To a state which will send them and their children to die and kill in wars serving only the big bosses and their politician friends? Will they really be safer in Israel than in France? This ruling-class mouthpiece was very quick to spend 700,000 ILS (\$200,000) of taxpayer money on his trip to France for propaganda purposes, despite being a somewhat unwelcome guest there.

Capitalism is the real terrorist organization, murdering more people worldwide on a daily basis by starvation, lack of medical care and clean water and endless wars for profit than even ISIS could kill in a year. Don't let Netanyahu and the neo-Nazi National Front use this kind of attack to win you to their plans of endless imperialist war and their bottomless pit of repression. Turn the tables on them. Jewish, Muslim and Christian workers in France and Israel-Palestine must unite to kick out the real terrorists — the big bosses!✊



100 Days on the Picket Line



Maine — "One day longer, one day stronger!"

More than 1,700 communications workers are on strike for over 100 days. Bosses threaten workers' healthcare and pensions to bail themselves out of bankruptcy.

LETTERS

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



CHALLENGE Chronicles

Our club has been back to the LA garment district four more times since our letter in the January 28 issue. So far our struggle to sell every issue on the same corner has been successful. Average sales have gone up and we're collecting more money.

We are setting up meetings with two contacts. One donated \$5 and said he had read CHALLENGE "many times" before. Perhaps most important, two workers in the mass organization we belong to have been participating with us. One was great at handing out the paper. He is improving in interacting with workers and requesting donations.

The other worker was timid at first about approaching people but when he saw that people were receptive, he turned into a tiger. When it was time to leave, he said, "Wait, I'm on a roll." The two workers have also been meeting with our club and study group.

Unemployment NOT Bosses' Policy

The article in Jan. 14 issue of CHALLENGE, titled "Marchers hit Racist Understaffing, Welfare for Bosses," says, "...capitalism needs unemployment in order to drive down wages, a necessary measure for any boss to stay competitive." I think there are two things wrong with that formulation, even though as a whole the article is excellent (as are almost all articles in CHALLENGE).

First, it implies that whatever capitalism needs it has the ability to create. While this is true of many ruling-class policies, such as imperialist military efforts or racist and brutal police forces that are uncontrollable by the communities they patrol, unemployment is not a policy.

The capitalist class, the active embodiment of capitalism, has no way of creating unemployment regardless of what it "needs." Unemployment is an unintended

aggregate result of the decisions of many competing capitalist firms, each trying to maximize its profits in the face of competition from other corporations in the same business, so as to prevent their going out of business. They have no more control over unemployment, a society-wide phenomenon, than they do over periodic recessions/depressions. Both unemployment and periodic recessions/depressions are the unintended result of a number of independent decisions at the individual corporation level and not the result of a planned action on the class level.

It is certainly true that unemployment is a net benefit to the capitalist class as a whole, as it weakens the workers' ability to fight for higher wages and better working conditions. But net benefit is not the same as something that capitalism (read the ruling class as a whole) needs and therefore, by implication, deliberately creates. Yet the formulation in the quoted sentence implies that they can and do deliberately create it.

Second, the same sentence states that unemployment is "a necessary measure for any boss to stay competitive." This is simply not true, in my view. In order for bosses "to stay competitive" it is not necessary that unemployment exist at all. Even if unemployment did not exist — an imaginable condition even though it is impossible in capitalist societies for other reasons — all competing capitalists would face the same condition and be helpless to do anything about it other than lay off or fire their own workers. It is only the relative advantage of some firms over others, and not a common condition faced by the entire class, that determines which ones stay competitive.

Ferguson: Life Changing Experience

Being in ferguson has been a life changing experience for me. We fought hard and we will continue to fight even harder with each day that passes us by. We fight for the working class and I had a handful of mixed emotions that reminded me of the hardest working person I knew, my father. He was a working class man who worked his hardest even after he discovered that he had cancer. I'm determined to fight back and fight just as hard as he did during his last days because to me fighting for the working class is fighting for my father.

France's Muslims See No Reason to Honour Charlie

Guardian Weekly (from the Washington Post) 23 January, Gennevilliers, France:

Rather than fall quiet as requested during a national minute of silence after the Charlie Hebdo killings, three boys in Hamid Abdelaali's high school class in this heavily Muslim suburb of Paris staged an informal protest, speaking loudly through all 60 seconds.

Across France they were not alone. In one school in Normandy, some Muslim students yelled...during that same moment. In a Paris middle school another group of young Muslims politely asked not to respect the minute, arguing to their teacher: "You reap what you sow."

Abdelaali, a 17-year-old high school senior...said he feels disgusted by a magazine whose provocative cartoons had used the image of Muhammad for satire....Within France's Muslim community of some 5 million — the largest in Europe — many are viewing the tragedy in starkly different terms from their non-Muslim compatriots. They...[are] arguing that, no, they are not Charlie at all.

Many of France's Muslims...abhor the violence that struck...earlier this month. But they are also revolted by the notion that they should defend the magazine. By putting the publication on a pedestal, they insist, the French are once again sidelining the Muslim community, feeding into a general sense of discrimination that, they argue, helped create the conditions for radicalization in the first place.

Unemployment and poverty remain far higher among France's Muslims than in the nation overall. Joblessness and poverty are particularly high in the heavily Muslim Paris suburbs such as Gennevilliers, an area of sprawling, dense apartment blocks....

On the streets here, Charlie Hebdo remains something different, a symbol of what some, such as Mohamed Binakdan, 32, describe as everyday humiliation of Muslims in France.

"You go to a nightclub, and they don't let you in," said Binakdan, a transit worker in Paris. "You go to a party, they look at your beard and say, 'Oh, when are you going to Syria to join the jihad?' Charlie Hebdo is part of that, too. Those who are stronger than us are mocking us. We have high unemployment, high poverty. Religion is all we have left.... And, yes, we have a hard time laughing about it."

Some insisted there is a double standard in freedom of speech and expression that is biased against Islam. They cite the 2010 so-called burqa ban in France that forbade "concealment of the face" in public, and that Muslim critics say was clearly aimed at devout Muslim women.✪

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Malcolm X Speaks: On the Sellout of the 1963 March on Washington

Just ten weeks after the historic civil rights march in August of 1963, Malcolm X gave an important speech — “Message to the Grassroots” — in which he attacked the civil rights misleaders who had collaborated with the ruling class and sold out the antiracist struggle of the day.

When reading Malcolm’s insightful analysis, quoted below, it’s helpful to keep in mind that back then Malcolm still viewed nearly all white folks as enemies and advocated black capitalism. But within a year, after two trips to Africa, he would make profound changes in his thinking. He came to recognize that all oppressed people, including white workers, are part of a common, international struggle against a common oppressor. When Malcolm uses the word “white” in this speech, we can substitute “capitalist” to better reflect where he was heading.

He concluded that the real enemy is capitalism. As Malcolm X put it, “You can’t operate a capitalistic system unless you are vulturistic; you have to have someone else’s blood to suck to be a capitalist. You show me a capitalist, I’ll show you a bloodsucker.”

Leading up to the summer of 1963, there was growing anger against racism, with lots of working-class struggle. As Malcolm explains, the March on Washington was spurred by militant grass-roots leaders:

It was the grass roots out there in the street. . . [It] scared the white power structure in Washington, DC to death; I was there. When they found out that this black steamroller was going to come down on the capital... they called in these national Negro leaders that you respect and told them, “Call it off.” Kennedy said, “Look, you all letting this thing go

too far.” And Old Tom said, “Boss, I can’t stop it, ‘cause I didn’t start it.” I’m telling you what they said. They said, “I’m not even in it, much less at the head of it.” They said, “These Negroes are doing things on their own. They’re running ahead of us.” And that old shrewd fox [Kennedy], he said, “Well if you all aren’t in it, I’ll put you in it. I’ll put you at the head of it. I’ll endorse it. I’ll welcome it. I’ll help it. I’ll join it.”

Malcolm went on to describe how liberal capitalists bought off the “Big Six” civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, A. Philip Randolph, James Farmer, and Whitney Young, with \$1.5 million for their new coalition, the Council for United Civil Rights Leadership:

Soon as they got the set-up organized, the white man made available to them top public relations experts; opened the news media across the country at their disposal; and then they begin to project these Big Six as the leaders of the march.... They became the march. They took it over... And as they took it over, it lost its militancy. They ceased to be angry. They ceased to be hot. They ceased to be uncompromising. Why, it even ceased to be a march. It became a picnic, a circus. Nothing but a circus, with clowns and all... I know you don’t like what I’m saying, but I’m going to tell you anyway ‘cause I can prove what I’m saying.... [It] was a sellout. It was a takeover.



BECAUSE CAPITALISM IS A BOSSES' SYSTEM BASED ON GREED, EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS, MIS-USE OF HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES, WAR, & THE CEASELESS THIRST FOR PROFITS BY A HANDFUL OF SUPER-RICH CAPITALIST RULERS, IT WILL STUMBLE FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS, LEAVING A TRAIL OF DEATH & MISERY IN ITS WAKE...



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

‘Why I Won’t Serve Israel’

NYT, 1/12 — “I didn’t want to be part of a system whose main task is the violent occupation of millions of people....”

Last year...a surge in refusals...were published by a group of high-schoolers, groups of reservists, veterans of the elite intelligence Unit 8200 and alumni and former staff members of the...Israeli Arts and Sciences Academy. All were denounced by politicians and in the media....

...Omar Saad....spent the first half of 2014 in and out of jail. In his...refusal he wrote, “How can I bear arms against my brothers and people in Palestine?...”

...Ultra-Orthodox Jews....historically...have been exempted from service....Recently...a proposal to draft [them]...resulted in a 500,000-strong public demonstration. Most...cite religious reasons for refusing, but...refusnik Uriel Ferera...after six months in jail, gave the occupation as a primary factor in his decision....

...Employment and educational opportunities often depend on completing military service....

“The reasons for not serving may differ...but there is a deeper consensus. We all refuse to see the government as a moral guide and military service as sacrosanct. As the Israeli government leads us further from peace and the army faithfully executes its violent orders, this is the kind of treachery we need most.”

‘Empowering’ students with canned peas?

NYT, 1/14 — An [Alabama] middle school principal wants to stockpile cans of corn and peas in classrooms for students to hurl at possible intruders as a last defense...

Principal [Priscella Holley]...asked parents to have each student bring an eight-ounce canned item. The can “could stun the intruder or even knock him out until the police arrive,” Ms. Holley wrote. “The canned food item will give students a sense of empowerment to protect themselves and will make them feel secure.”

Cops shoot kid, arrest sister for trying to aid him

NYT, 1/9 — ...Two Cleveland police officers involved in the fatal shooting of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old [black] boy...stood by without rendering medical aid as the boy lay wounded....

...About a minute and a half after one officer...[had taken two seconds to shoot] Tamir, the other officer tackled the boy’s 14-year-old sister as she tried to reach her brother. Tamir was shot...after someone called...to report “a guy” who had been pointing a “probably fake” pistol....

...The officers provided no immediate medical assistance to Tamir, who was not pronounced dead until more than nine hours later at a Cleveland hospital....

After the second...officer...subdued Tamir’s sister, he pushed her to the ground back-first, tumbling on top of her — the girl was handcuffed and put in the back of a police cruiser....

...An audio recording...indicated Tamir was alive when the officers were detaining his sister.

‘Richer you are, more likely to lie, cheat, shoplift...’

National Academy of Sciences, 1/26/12 — “What is clear about rich people and their money,” says Dacher Kelner at the U. of California, “is how it changes them.”

...He and his colleague Paul Piff installed notetakers and cameras at city street intersections with four-way stop signs. The people driving expensive cars were four times more likely to cut in front of other drivers than drivers of cheap cars. The drivers in expensive cars ignored pedestrians 46.2% of the time.

Researchers at the NY State Psychiatric Institute surveyed 43,000 Americans and found that, by some wide margin, the rich were more likely to shoplift than the poor. Another study by Independent Sector (a non profit coalition) revealed that people with incomes below \$25,000 give away, on average, 4.2% of their income while those earning more than \$150,000 give away 2.7%.

Berkeley researchers invited a cross-section of the population into the lab, and upon leaving the room had them pass by a big jar of candy. The richer the person, the more likely he was to reach in and take candy, ignoring a big sign that said the candy was for the children

who passed through the department.

In one other study, they rigged a game with cash prizes in favor of one of the players and then showed how that person, as he grows richer, becomes more likely to cheat.

“In sum,” says Kelmer, “you are more likely to violate the rules of the road, to lie, to cheat, to take candy from kids, to shoplift and to be tightfisted in giving to others.”

Taxi strikes spread across China

NYT, 1/15 — Taxi drivers...across China have gone on strike...to protest...soaring expenses, shrinking incomes and...competition...by a spate of new ride-hailing apps....

...Hundreds of drivers in the...rust-belt city of Changshu blocked roads, prompting...police officers [to]...arrest scores of drivers....

Cabbies in other cities...also took part in organized work stoppages....

...One driver complained that he had to hand over more than half of his fare receipts to the fleet company from which he rented his vehicle. “I get up at 6 a.m. every morning and sit about 14 hours a day, only to get... about \$325 [a month]....His income is \$70 less than the national average....

...Copycat protests...[have] surged...with 569 episodes counted in the final quarter of last year, or three times the number in same period in 2013....

...Rapacious fleet companies charge onerous rental fees. “Drivers are basically held hostage to the companies and...are constantly squeezed...”

L.A.’s jails: a U.S. concentration camp

NYT, 12/25 — The Los Angeles County jail system, with about 19,000 inmates, is the biggest in the country. For decades, it has also been...its most lawless and brutal.

Inmates held there have long endured vicious, unprovoked beatings by gangs of guards...all under a cloak of silence and intimidation....

According to reports...men have been slammed head first into walls, Tasered repeatedly at close range, kicked by guards while curled up on the floor, and pushed out of a wheelchair, and then beaten and pepper-sprayed.

Selma: Violent Bosses Push Nonviolence

Selma opens with Martin Luther King, Jr. accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. The film, and the portrayal of MLK, is consistent in depicting his pacifism. The march from Selma to Montgomery concludes peacefully. Lyndon Johnson said, “This is why I have chosen you, and not Malcolm X, who advocates violence, to lead the movement.” The film footage from the beginning to the end, however, proves that peaceful movements unprepared-for-violence beget violence.

The film advocates nonviolence and using the legal system. King and other mainstream civil rights leaders argued that working inside the system — by allying with “lesser-evil” bosses and going through the courts and laws — would win the fight against racism. King and others take on collaborationist positions, in which they exploit workers’ anti-racist fights to spread reformist illusions about elections, pacifism, and a seat at the bosses’ table.

Nonviolence is the belief that workers should accept all violence committed against them by the capitalist state and not fight back. The belief is that the rulers’ conscience will prevail and they will stop the violence against workers. This is what the bosses love about nonviolence: it disarms the working class from fighting back. History has proven many times the rulers have no conscience, i.e., slavery, racist police murder, and imperialist wars.

Pacifism vs. Mass Class Violence

“Negotiation, demonstration, and passive resistance” is King’s mantra in pressing for the right to vote. The barriers to vote are clearly part of a much bigger legal system. The film bears out the truth of the statement, “The cops, the courts the ku klux klan, all a part of the bosses’ plan.” Five hours after King’s speech, Viola Liuzzo drives a few marchers back to Selma, the subtitle states that she is murdered by the KKK.

Following the brutal beating by the cops of restaurant patrons (some were marching as King was away at a meeting) and the murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson, King visits Jimmie’s grandfather. He says, “God was the first to cry.” This statement contrasts sharply with a Black worker’s reaction to the beating of hundreds on the first crossing, known as of the Edmund Pettus Bridge (named after a Southern KKK leader and U.S. senator) out of Selma and the subsequent murder of Malcolm X: “We need guns” (see page 7).

King responded that they couldn’t win if he kills two racists and the racist government kills ten. King’s limited vision couldn’t see the power of an armed, organized working class, let alone a strategy to defeat the whole capitalist system, and so he silenced other militant voices.

Failure to Defy the Bosses

The second march on the bridge showed clearly King’s inability to confront U.S. ruling class and state. The troops were ordered to pull back. But King’s “instinct,” as James Reed, a Unitarian minister put it, told



Workers in Harlem march in solidarity with Selma

him there might be an ambush leading to more bloodshed of this multiracial march. King turned about after a brief prayer and led the march — this time with one-third white protesters from across the country — to retreat. That night, James Reed was beaten to death by Selma racists.

Only when the 50-mile march was approved — after a hearing with those victims of previous assaults as witnesses — did King make serious plans to march all the way. There is an imagined conversation between outright racist Alabama governor George Wallace and liberal racist U.S. president Lyndon Johnson before the march. The two politicians deny to each other who has the greater watch over voting rights, the President, the Governor, or, indeed, the racist registrars. Johnson declares that he doesn’t want to go down in history with the same identity as Wallace and was forced to sign the Voting Rights Act, which removed the most overt barriers to Black workers voting.

The film’s climax conveys that Johnson’s signature on the Voting Rights Act, not militant struggle, will improve the lot of Black workers. Fifty years later, Black workers still suffer from the vicious racism by the kkkops, courts, and bosses. King’s statements “we don’t fight” and Johnson’s backing (“he’s non-violent”) remain the theme of *Selma*. Two men close to King, Andrew Young and John Lewis, both believers in non-violence, were highlighted after the film’s conclusion as

achieving prominent government positions. They went on to fool many workers into revamping the very system that oppresses them.

Yet, actions speak louder than words. King was killed five months later when he acted to support the demands of the Memphis sanitation strikers. Two of the men had been crushed to death by faulty trucks. Mayor Loeb refused to make repairs or to raise the poverty-level wages that kept many of the workers on welfare. For King’s leadership of striking workers, criticism of the Vietnam War, and demanding the rights of white and Black workers, he shall be remembered throughout history.

After King’s assassination the front page of CHALLENGE said, “Nonviolence is Dead, Organize!” What is never reported now in the media is that mass rebellions in scores of cities against tanks and troops deployed in the streets forced the U.S. ruling class to enact reforms such as voting access and antipoverty programs.

Ultimately, the bosses evoke King as a hero because he represents tactics that do not pose a vital threat to the root of racism: capitalism. The rulers would rather have nonviolent marches and negotiation with politicians than rebellions like Ferguson. Workers need revolutionary violence organized by a mass communist Party. Workers need not one but millions of heroes who lead by serving our class for a communist world.✊

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