

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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May Day 2015

PLP IN PAKISTAN FIGHTS BACK!

PAKISTAN, May 1 — “Workers of the world, unite!” was a slogan chanted with energy, enthusiasm, excitement and confidence all over Pakistan on May Day. The working class in Pakistan is still facing the same problems as the working class did in 1848. On this year’s May Day, comrades, friends and sympathizers of the international revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party were very active bringing the working class into the streets all over Pakistan!

Nationwide, huge rallies, protest demonstrations and seminars were organized under different trade unions, student organizations, employees and women’s organizations which were attended by hundreds of thousands of workers all over Pakistan. Workers were demanding minimum wage increases to 40,000 rupees (\$392 per month from the current \$197), empowerment of labor courts, social security benefits to informal sector workers, an end to forced labor, the contractual system and privatization. Workers also demanded an end to poor living and working conditions, and mass unemployment.

PLP in Pakistan Marches and Fights!

At two large rallies of workers and students in different places, PLP women comrades explained that only five percent of all workers are organized under trade unions in Pakistan, but only one percent of women are. They emphasized that any worker’s struggle cannot achieve success without the participation and leadership of women. Comrades also asked their coworkers in their trade unions to rise above their personal interests and help the working class to unite into a single movement for equality and justice. CHALLENGE was distributed to the workers and students in the audience.

In a rally organized by the All Pakistan Trade Union Federation, a PLP member explained to the crowd that the government is planning to privatize big industries like Pakistan Steel and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). But meanwhile the phony leadership of PIA’s union is organizing a strike just so they can win themselves free plane tickets! He explained that workers need PLP, a true working-class and revolutionary party to fight not only against privatization, but all capitalist exploitation. He expressed great concern over the economic and social sufferings of the working class, which enables the rich to become richer and the poor to be poorer. The bosses here have stashed \$200 billion into Swiss banks. Meanwhile, the U.S. imperialists are pushing the Pakistani bosses into the clutches of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

A comrade addressing another major trade union said that the children of workers had no access to education, but even if they did manage to get an education, they cannot get jobs because of blatant corruption and the preference given to rich people. He explained that without communist revolution under the leadership from the international working class, our children will also become exploited workers. Therefore we must strive to eliminate bosses and establish a classless society.

Hundreds of poor brick-kiln workers — a sector PLP has been organizing in the suburbs of Lahore — also held a rally on May Day. A friend of PLP complained of being paid only 400 rupees (\$3.90) per 1,000 bricks, against the government stipulated minimum of 742 rupees (\$7.29) per 1,000 bricks. A woman brick-kiln



worker and friend of PLP explained that sexual harassment is rampant, and owners of kilns threatened them with torture and death when they expressed concerns at the condition of the bonded laborers employed in brick-kilns. Another brick-kiln worker complained that the bosses had stopped them from traveling to the city for the May Day rallies.

Women healthcare workers also participated in citywide May Day rallies. Their union representatives blasted their industry’s lack of regulation of existing laws. Health care workers are paid far below the minimum wage of 12,000 rupees (\$117.82), despite orders from the Supreme Court. They also condemned the bosses for not supporting the families of women health workers who were killed by terrorists during the polio campaign in the regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Karachi.

Comrades and friends of PLP in the All-Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPD), the Hydro Electric Workers Union, Railway Workers Union, Telecommunication Employees Union and Paramedic Association demanded that the government immedi-



ately honor existing labor laws, restore labor inspection in all the industrial units, provide all workers the right to organize trade unions, and increase wages according to increasing inflation. They called on the workers to organize and build a fighting Progressive Labor Party on their jobs, and that only joining the fight for communist revolution can ultimately end the nightmare these workers suffer in Pakistan.

Only Security Is Communist Revolution

A PLer in Peshawar recalled the sacrifices of Chicago workers in 1886, which led to the first May Day in 1890, and said that the working class in Pakistan is also facing similar exploitation. He called on forging unity among workers to force the ruling class to fulfill their demands. He criticized the government for imposing a ban on trade unions in 98 per cent of private sector factories, where the workers are being forced to work for 12 hours on just 4,000 to 6,000 Pakistani rupees (\$39 to \$59 monthly). He said that the workers also lack social security, medical facilities, free education. Labor laws were openly violated with no check by the authorities. The only true social security for workers in Peshawar is communist revolution!

Local Government Employees’ Federation, Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) and Gadoon Workers Federation (GWF) also organized separate May Day functions, with PLP members involved in each. Workers demanded a mechanism to save the precious lives of workers at workplaces, provide social security to all workers, stop privatization and to smash the sexist harassment of women workers.

A Party comrade in a very remote and relatively backward city of Pakistan succeeded in bringing cart-drivers and rickshaw drivers onto the roads together with only red flags, and no other flag or banner! An-

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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!

CONTACT US

Email

desafio.challenge@gmail.com

Mail

Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202

Internet

www.plp.org

challengenewspaper.wordpress.com

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

Candidates Pledge Allegiance to U.S. Imperialism

The United States military is the largest and deadliest in the world, with over 750 military bases in 153 countries and fleets of warships, drones and satellites. Its job is to protect the global investments of the dominant finance capital wing of U.S. imperialism: Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, ExxonMobil. The U.S. president is commander-in-chief of the U.S. military; for the ruling class, the 2016 elections matter. The capitalists hope to find a winning candidate who can mislead and pacify millions of U.S. workers, as Barack Obama did in 2008 and 2012 to accept and fight for their imperialist wars. They especially need the support of Black, Latin and immigrant youth as soldiers in the global conflicts to come, the very same people their cops gun down in the streets.

For the working class, it will make no difference whether the next president is a Democrat or a Republican. No matter which party is in power, racist cops will terrorize Black and immigrant workers and youth. The capitalist court system will imprison them by the million. Women will suffer sexist degradation; thousands of migrant workers will die seeking a better life. Regardless of who wins the big electoral prize, the ruling class will pursue broader imperialist wars and slaughter millions of our working-class sisters and brothers worldwide.

We don't need the bosses or their rotten capitalist version of democracy. PLP fights for communist revolution to put the working class in power. We say: Don't vote, distribute CHALLENGE! Don't vote, fight back against racist police terror and imperialist wars! Don't vote, revolt and fight for communism!

Elections Settle Bosses' Fights

The capitalists need presidential elections to sell the myth that voting can force the profit system to address workers' needs. But that isn't the only reason. The presidency holds enormous power. Different factions of U.S. bosses slug it out in presidential campaigns — spending billions of dollars along the way — to resolve internal disagreements over how best to handle rival imperialists like China and Russia. Having invested trillions in Iraq and Afghanistan, the finance capital wing wants to use U.S. military power more aggressively to protect ExxonMobil's profitable oil-pumping. Obama represents this wing. Most current Democratic and Republican presidential candidates do as well.

In general, the U.S. bosses want workers — and especially Black and immigrant youth — to believe the Democrats are on their side. For the 2016 presidential election, their only credible candidate at present is Hillary Clinton, the wife of former president Bill Clinton. Throughout the 1990s her husband instigated a children's genocide by blocking food and medicine from entering Iraq. By the time his successor, George W. Bush, was finished, U.S. imperialism had killed 500,000 Iraqi children. Meanwhile, Hillary became a U.S. senator who voted for the 2003 Iraq genocide. Obama later appointed her as his pro-war secretary of state, where she backed the slaughters in Libya in 2011. Like her former boss, Hillary Clinton is no friend of the working class!

Slapping Down Adelson, Warning Rubio

On the Republican side, Jeb Bush, former President's George W. Bush's brother, is competing with the likes of Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz and Scott Walker. Despite their minor disagreements, all of them reflect the growing domination of the main finance capital faction. Rubio's case is the

clearest. As recently as last month, the Republicans' biggest single donor, billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, made Rubio a front-runner for the nomination and claimed to have the candidate in his pocket. But Adelson has allied with capitalist bosses in China, where his mega-casino profits depend on the favor of government officials. In response, U.S. finance capitalists used Obama to punish Adelson earlier this month:

Details of [Adelson's] Macau operation have raised red flags in both the U.S. Justice Department and federal financial regulators. If the allegations are proven to be true, Adelson could face severe penalties affecting his empire, namely the suspension of his gambling license, drastically hindering his revenue stream (Jerusalem Post, 5/9/15).

Within days of this discipline, Marco Rubio reversed his positions on military spending. On May 13, he marched into the New York mansion housing the Council on Foreign Relations, the think tank funded directly by ExxonMobil and JPMorgan Chase. Telling these arch-imperialists what they wanted to hear, Rubio said, "Russia, China, Iran, or any other nation that attempts to block global commerce will know to expect a response from my administration." He also vowed:

[M]y first priority will be to adequately fund our military.to modernize them... on the cutting edge in every arena before us—land, sea and air, but also cyberspace and outer space: the battlefields of the 21st century. ...We can ensure that we never send our troops into a fair fight; but rather always equip them with the upper hand.

Rubio also turned his back on the billionaire Koch brothers, the chief domestic rivals of the finance capital wing. Since the Kochs pump and refine their oil within the U.S., they are less eager to commit U.S. resources to the next oil war in the Middle East. The Koch-funded think tank, The Cato Foundation, charged that Rubio's manifesto "minimizes the costs and risks of our current foreign policies, and oversells the benefits" (Cato Foundation website, 5/15/15).

Lining Up Behind Finance Capital

Kentucky Senator Rand Paul was quicker than Rubio to reassure the finance capitalists of his allegiance:

Just weeks before announcing his 2016 presidential bid...Rand Paul is completing an about-face on a longstanding pledge to curb the growth in defense spending. In an olive branch [offer of reconciliation] to defense hawks hell-bent on curtailing his White House ambitions, the libertarian Senator introduced a budget amendment late Wednesday calling for a nearly \$190 billion infusion to the defense budget.... (Time, 3/26/15).

One day later, Ted Cruz followed Paul:

I supported...increasing defense spending because the very first priority of the federal government must be protecting our vital national security (National Review, 3/27/15).

Scott Walker, the union-busting governor of Wisconsin, has also fallen in line, "publicly supporting an end to defense cuts under sequestration" (The Hill, 5/11/15).

The Republicans' problem is that most of their leading candidates come from states with viciously racist anti-immigrant laws. If elected president, one of these politicians will have to convince terrorized immigrant workers to help defend U.S. imperialism.

Don't Vote, Organize with PLP

The U.S. bosses have killed millions of workers across the globe. Marching into the voting booths will never stop the capitalists' next mass murder. The fightback in Ferguson and Baltimore showed the way. Under liberal Democrat Obama, the international working class saw only more war and racist terror. All electoral parties represent capitalism. Only Progressive Labor Party struggles for the needs of the working class. PLP calls on workers everywhere to choose communist revolution. We cannot vote on revolution; we must fight for it. Join us!✊



Ferguson Fightback and New Members Highlight May Day

CHICAGO

CHICAGO, April 25 — “After all this time of being around and not seeing things getting better, I finally understand the need for a party to end capitalism,” said a long-time supporter of PLP here who has now joined the Party at this year’s May Day celebration. The decision for her to join was a reflection of years of friendship, exposing her to class struggle, Party culture, and a class analysis of the successes and failures of our work in mass organizations. She, and another new comrade who joined after the dinner, represent rays of light climbing out of the capitalist oppression our class is in now.

May Day, the International Workers’ Holiday, has its’ roots in Chicago and is the observance of the Haymarket Massacre of May 4, 1886. Workers on a citywide strike marched in protest against police attacks and for the right to an eight-hour workday. After a police agent threw a bomb from the crowd, the cops attacked and started a full-scale riot. In the end, seven labor lead-

ers were tried and convicted of conspiracy, resulting in the public hanging of four comrades on November 11, 1887. May 1 was chosen as the international day of remembrance for those killed in the massacre.

The theme for this year’s dinner was “Celebrating 50 Years of Class Struggle.” With comrades we hadn’t seen for a while, new members, and our base, we enjoyed delicious food and heard reports of our local work in the city and surrounding areas, national activities, and a report from comrades involved in international struggles. There were performances of spoken word and poems by high school and college members, and a rousing call to action for the Summer Project and the PLP Convention. We took time to give a fond send-off to a very dedicated comrade who was moving away after decades in the fight for communism in the area.

The highlight was the report from our friends from Ferguson and St. Louis, Missouri, on the status of their work and the impact of PLP’s support. The Party took up a collection for the group, as they announced they were making their way to Baltimore to support the struggles there against the murderous police and a racist system of injustice. Mike Brown (Ferguson), Rekia Boyd (Chi-

cago), and Freddie Gray (Baltimore) are just three of the thousands of people slaughtered by a capitalist system that sacrifices our class for their profits. In every city, we see the carnage left behind by killer cops and fascist politicians in their efforts to terrorize and exploit working class people, and super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian, and migrant workers.

Criticism of our dinner included the modest attendance. Also, we agreed to re-commit ourselves to expand our distribution networks, and write for, CHALLENGE, the only newspaper for the international working class. We will continue to struggle with each other to deepen our commitment.

As one of our new comrades expressed, the need for a mass Party to end the suffering of working-class people is ever-growing. During May Day, we celebrate the struggles we have come through and the resolve to continue fighting in this dark night of imperialist oppression. We must work harder to turn the quality of people we win to our fight into the quantity of workers needed to win the war against capitalism. Power, power, power to the Workers!✊

MEXICO



banner reads, “no to bourgeois democracy. Fight against their imperialist wars.

Workers of the world unite!

LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, May 2 — Today PLP marched through the neighborhood where we had begun organizing against the racist murders of Ezell Ford and Omar Abrego by the LAPD. The day before, we participated in the reformist march to greet marchers with our communist politics.

Today’s march is a communist revolutionary march for May Day. One new member described it as “small but spirited.” Workers supported from the sidewalks and cars beeped their horns in support, and for the most part, we were able to march in the street without any interference from the police.

Afterwards, we met at a nearby park recreational center for our dinner. We kicked it off by singing “Bella Ciao” which was followed by inspiring speeches from four new members who spoke about why they joined the Party and called on others to join. Another young leader talked about the history of PLP’s first 50 years.

As we reflected on the year’s activities, we realized the Party here has the great potential to be a mighty force against racism and sexism. PLP participated in the upswing in the fightback surrounding the racist murders of Michael Brown in Ferguson and Ezell Ford here in Los Angeles.

We organized a BBQ prior to May Day. A family member of Ezell Ford attended, among others. We are also witnessing growth in our mass activities, including a new PL member from a local church.

Looking forward, many in the collective recognize that we must respond to these attacks swiftly and mobilize our friends in the process. We should also see May Day as an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to winning the working class to our politics. Our Party is moving forward! Happy May Day, comrades!✊

MEXICO CITY, May 1 — Today, members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party, marched with flags and banners while we chanted communist slogans. Our group represented a beacon in the midst of the dark night of capitalism in crisis and on the brink of wider imperialist wars. Amidst the passivity and opportunism that the reformist, electoral, and phony “communist” organizations pushed amongst the working class, our slogans calling workers to fight for communism and the dictatorship of the proletariat had an impact on thousands of workers. Workers in the march listened carefully to our communist slogans and chants, and many took pictures of our banners and of the

children who marched with us carrying red flags.

We distributed more than 6,000 flyers to groups of teachers, electricians, miners, telephone workers, students and other groups that participated in the International Workers’ Day celebration. On the eve of the elections on June 7, our principal slogan is to reject the electoral process and denounce the bosses’ democracy as a bosses’ dictatorship.

Before the march, we organized three dinners with our friends, where we talked about rejecting the electoral farce and imperialist wars. We discussed the importance of committing our lives to organizing a communist, revolutionary party: PLP.✊

Haiti: Nothing to Lose But Our Chains

HAITI, May 1 — PLP organized several events around May Day here to build class-consciousness and PLP. Below is a report of one of the activities in a small town.

PLP members organized a gathering of rural and urban workers and students. They recalled the history of May 1 with a historical overview of slavery and the industrial revolution, up to the mobilizations of striking workers in Chicago in 1886. They described the current situation for the working class and debated how to destroy the misery, poverty and exploitation that capitalism creates. The participants responded with solidarity for PLP — organize our class, prepare the revolution, and march towards communism, the only answer to capitalism!

Raise Hell With Radios

On the eve of May Day, two PLers presented a radio show: "May Day is not a festival." The bosses try to hide what May 1 really means by creating fairs and festivities without political content. But communists organize rallies to present the conditions and interests of the working class. The presenters read a press release heard on radio programs in the capital, Port-au-Prince, before traveling to the provinces.

Callers congratulated the speakers and asked questions about the solution to the problems posed: unemployment and slave wages. The response was to "organize our class to fight back against the ills of capitalism

and build a revolutionary party that meets the aspirations of the working class around the world." The final caller, a youth aged 14, called to say, "Don't go, you are saying good and true things; my mom and dad are listening to you, too. I like to hear what you say and learn about what you are doing."

On May Day, PLP organized a public event with more than 50 people. Workers and unemployed, young professionals and students participated. They condemned the system and showed that they understand the bosses' game. They also pointed out the contradiction that May 1 is seen as Work and Agriculture Day in Haiti. How can workers celebrate Work and Agriculture Day when there is no work and no agriculture?

They also denounced the exploitation the working class suffers. They proclaimed, "Let us unite, we have nothing to lose but our chains!" A public health worker, a secretary, a high school teacher and a primary teacher agreed with a young comrade who advocated organizing into unions to defend the interests of workers. However, as communists, we went straight to the point: the working class must organize itself under the leadership of an international communist party, and go beyond the reform struggle all the way to a revolutionary communist struggle. That is the only way out of the racist capitalist world.

One participant said he liked what they were saying, so why not run for Congress? The comrades made

it clear that electing the "right" people will not solve the problems workers are facing because the capitalist system is stacked against our class. Participation in the bosses' election circus only builds individualism and trust in bourgeois politicians doing something positive for workers. That never happened and it never will happen!

After the public event, PLP and friends enjoyed a dinner together. To carry out these activities, PLP comrades from the U.S. and Haiti raised funds among our friends. A colleague of a local teacher contributed a community center and a generator; a brother provided the sound; other friends and family made coffee and prepared food. Several students did the mobilization work and cleaned up the space before and after. It was a good experience, showing how we can accomplish our tasks by relying on ourselves.

Some students of one teacher criticized her, because they feel that not enough classroom time is given to political debates. They are eager for more opportunities to discuss class struggle, communist revolution and the history of the working class, subjects that are generally hidden from them in the course of bourgeois education.

As communists, we live in harmony with the masses, who have confidence in our communist party. To the final victory!✊

May Day Marchers Blast Anti-Immigrant Detention Center

DILLEY, TEXAS — Over 500 anti-racists from all backgrounds, including PLers, marched to protest the horrendous conditions at the South Texas Family Residential Center here which houses immigrant women and children fleeing the dangerous conditions of drug-related violence brought to Central America by U.S. imperialism. The government ruling Honduras in collaboration with wealthy landowners has been cracking down on small farmers, murdering and disappearing those struggling for land rights.

Miguel Facussé, a biofuel boss and cocaine importer known by the U.S. State Department, works closely with the Honduran police and military which receive generous funding from U.S. bosses under the pretext of the "war on drugs."

Racist Attack on Women and Youth

Most of these immigrants are women workers and youth. Roughly one million migrants have come from Honduras, one of the most dangerous places in the world outside active war zones. While they flee the sexist and racist terror of their home country, more sexism and racism awaits them here. Many stay in the facility only to be deported back to their deaths. The racist detention center is the largest in Texas and can hold up to 2,400 detainees. It is run by the profiteering Corrections Corporation of America, a private company.

We had planned to go to Dilley on May Day to bring our message of communism, anti-racism, class struggle and revolution to the other organizations that had planned the march. While there, we passed out flyers calling for communism to nearly everyone at the march and to those watching, and distributed 50 CHALLENGES. We explained that capitalist-created borders are the problem because they only serve the bosses' need to exploit workers and keep us ideologically divided.

The protesters were mostly positive in their response. People were curious to find communist literature in a town with a racist detention center.

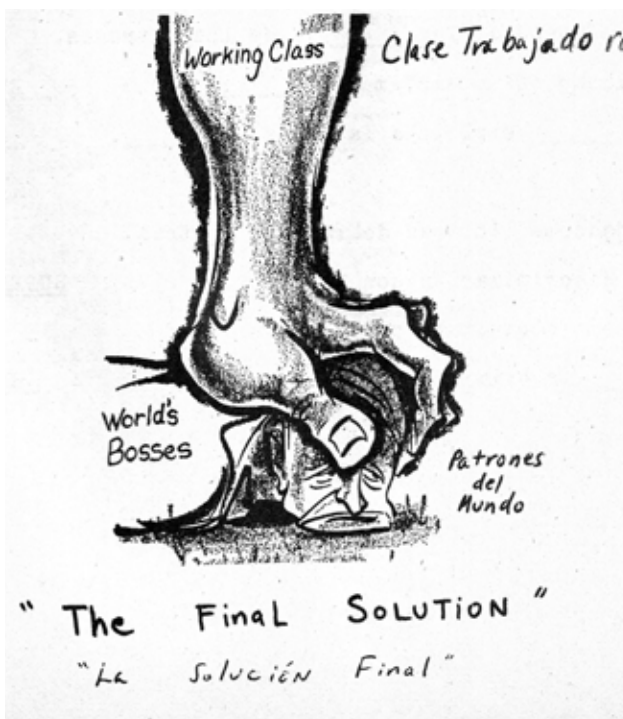
During the march our contingent was the most vocal. We led militant chants while flying our banner. We had passed by a prison built right next to the detention center. Pointing to both buildings we chanted, "Show us what fascism looks like, this is what fascism looks like!" Many people were on board with our chants. A whole group chanted with us, changing "Si Se Puede" (Yes we can!) and other meaningless lines. We shouted, "Las luchas obreras no tienen fronteras!" ("Workers have no borders!") We kept the energy high the whole distance.

After the march, we returned to where we met

our friends and presented a skit about racist police terror, how it affects the working class, and why we should fight back against all forms of racism. The skit portrayed police murders as efforts by the bosses' state to keep us in fear in order to divide and weaken us. It also explained that inter-imperialist rivalries compel the bosses to intensify murders by racist cops and mass deportations domestically to discipline the working class into submission.

Near the end some comrades gave emotional testimonials about why they joined the Party, describing the horrors of capitalism in a very personal manner which moved our friends. The skit provoked many conversations about smashing capitalism. In closing we sang Bella Ciao and The Internationale.

This May Day was the most productive in a while. By reaching out to people in other cities as well as our own, we strengthened our forces and helped spread the message of multi-racial unity among the working class. By changing a dull and fruitless march to the tune of anti-racism and pro-communism we promoted a solution to capitalism's woes. Having an overwhelmingly positive response to the presentation at our May Day celebration from our friends and an effective march has inspired us for the year ahead. From now until the next May Day we plan to work even harder in the fight for multi-racial unity, anti-racism, anti-sexism and communism.✊



Colombia: Anti-Capitalist Rule, Pro-Communist Ideas!

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA, May 1 — We celebrated one more International Workers' Day on May Day. Early in the morning, close to 40,000 workers from the countryside and the city prepared their banners and got ready to march.

PLP distributed more than 150 CHALLENGES and 3,000 revolutionary flyers that explained our communist line. We carried red flags symbolizing workers' power and chanted slogans that generated curiosity amongst participants. Our chants included: "Against capitalists' rule, advance communists' ideas!" and "Peace between classes only serves criminal bosses!" Many others chants were vocalized by dozens and dozens of enthusiastic comrades, friends, and supporters.

Unlike the chants of reformist groups and politicians, our slogan, "The history of the working class is not a carnival parade," was well received by the participants. Many trade unions called for peace, social justice and economic reforms, and members of the phony left presented themselves as saviors, to which we responded that "Peace is capitalist rule, we must organize communist revolution!"

There was a strong state military repression to suppress and provoke the participants. They broke the march with tear gas and truncheon blows, and injured 16 protesters. Many were also arrested. We responded to these attacks by chanting, "Against the fascist state, communist revolution!" We remained together as a group until we reached Bolivar Plaza, where we folded our banners and separated, given that union leaders took over the stage with nationalist and reformist speeches in response to our slogans, "Down with capitalist nationalism, long live communist internationalism!"

We met a good number of people who asked us about the racist fascism against our Black, Latin, Asian and migrants sisters and brothers in the United States and worldwide. We met a group of beer factory workers who, tired of their bosses' abuses, organized a trade union and gave us their addresses so we could send them our literature.

Afterwards, we evaluated this great experience in order to continue forging the unity of the international working class around the line of PLP and its revolutionary program that aims to crush the current capitalist dictatorship and build a new communist society.✊

May Day Marchers Hit Bosses On Homelessness, Low Wages, Racism

NEWARK, NJ, May 1 — Fifty people, chanting “Power to the working class, kick the bosses in the ass”, “Jobs yes, racism no, police brutality has got to go”, and “Baltimore means, we got to fight back” marched along Broad Street here in the second annual May Day march in this city. The chanting was loud and continuous. Several workers joined in as we passed by. Progressive Labor Party members distributed over 150 CHALLENGES to the marchers and passersby.

The period leading up to march saw worsening conditions for the working class in this area. As more and more workers have come under attack by the capitalist system, especially since the financial crash of 2008, we have seen skyrocketing evictions and foreclosures. The end of unemployment benefit extensions, and time limits on emergency assistance for shelter and rent payments have driven unemployed workers into the street. Small “tent cities” have sprung up in numerous urban areas in New Jersey. These tent cities are inhabited by unemployed and employed workers who simply don’t have money to pay rent anywhere.

This past winter in the Northeast was particularly brutal. Because local shelters and warming centers were only open when night-time temperatures were expected to go below 15 degrees, tent city residents were frequently sleeping outside in below-freezing temperatures. One of those residents, who had mental health issues, and been recently cut off Medicaid. One January night, she died.

Wages for workers in many New Jersey jobs are at, or barely above, the minimum wage of \$8.38 per hour. The mainly Black and Latin airport workforce, in particular, has been fighting back against these low wages. Meanwhile, hundreds of millions in tax credits have been given to Prudential Insurance company and other corporations who are gentrifying downtown Newark.

The organizers of the march highlighted the con-

nection between low wages, unemployment, racism and homelessness. The themes of the march were, “We are One Paycheck Away From Homelessness” and “We fight to End Racism and All Forms of Oppression.” A tent-city resident spoke at the opening rally and thanked the marchers for coming out in support of their homeless brothers and sisters. He vowed that we would not forget our sister who died, and that we would continue to expose the conditions of homeless people.

Another speaker from a group advocating a \$15 per hour minimum wage said the real problem facing workers involved in all of these struggles is the capitalist system itself. He said we should fight back against all the attacks, but also said winning higher wages or other reforms alone will never solve the problems faced by the working class.

Several speakers said that the recent actions to fight police murder in Baltimore, Maryland was *rebellion* against racism. One said that the charges against the cops involved in the murder of Freddie Gray would not have come without that uprising. One spoke about the growing movement in Newark to fight poverty and racism in the midst of corporate gentrification. The



speaker said we had taken one of the punches that the bosses threw at us and redirected that punch “back to them with force”.

The day ended with a song, “The Internationale”, introduced as having been written by a transport worker condemned to death by the bosses after the crushing of what was then the biggest worker uprising in history, the 1871 Paris Commune. Many marchers joined in proudly singing, in both Spanish and English, this anthem to the working class. We in PLP will continue the struggle with our fellow workers to win them to fight for a communist world that would abolish homelessness, wage slavery, racism and poverty.✊

Militant PLP Sharpens Oaxaca’s May Day

OAXACA, MEXICO, May 1 — Among the thousands of workers that participated in the May Day march in Oaxaca today, the presence of our Party, the communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) stood out.

This was because of our militancy and the messages of the communist slogans we chanted as a group and with great energy such as: “For a Communist and Proletariat May Day!” “We Must End Electoral Farce!” “We Struggle, We Win, Power to the Working Class!” “In Our Communist Struggle, Capitalist Criminal, You’re in Our Crossfire!” “The Crisis of the System Has No Solution, the Only Solution is Revolution!” “One Class, One Party, Workers of the World Unite!” and “Long Live Communism, Death to Capitalism!”

We distributed 2,000 flyers to the CNTE teachers that belong to Local 22. A PLP member, with the help of some of his friends, distributed 500 flyers to a group of health care workers. The flyer denounced the fascist policies of the Mexican ruling class oppressing working class under the guise of structural reforms and it exposed the electoral farce. It also invited workers to join PLP and explained the need for a communist revolution to overthrow the capitalist class that controls the world. We are taking advantage of the approaching imperialist war to build a communist society, which is the only answer for the interests and needs of our class.

We carried the red flags that represent the international working class and a banner calling for workers to join PLP to destroy the corrupt and criminal capitalist system with communist revolution.

These activities and the fighting attitude against the policies of the corrupt, oppressive and criminal capitalists motivate and inspire us to continue our revolutionary communist work with full commitment. The current labor stoppage by the health care workers and the strike that some trade unions and organizations are planning, represent opportunities we must use to promote the growth of PLP.✊

Thousands Greet Released Power Loom Workers

FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN, May 6 — Today, thousands of workers were here to welcome home seven power loom workers who were released from the Central Jail after serving four-and-a-half years. The workers led a mass march through the main streets and industrial sections of the city, from 10am to 8pm, ending in a mass rally with militant chants to welcome the freed workers home.

Six others remain in prison. In all, 14 workers were convicted by the Anti-Terrorist Court (ATC) and sentenced to a total 490 years on various charges. Their only crime was organizing power loom workers to demand a government wage increase in all Faisalabad industries, especially for low-wage power loom workers. One young leader, Raja Arshad, went underground to escape arrest, and experienced many hardships. He died three months ago of a massive heart attack.

The conviction was challenged in Higher Court soon after the ATC draconian order. After a long legal battle, the court ordered the immediate release of the workers but refused to waive the fines against them. So far, we have raised enough money to win the release of these seven. We are on a campaign to collect enough money to pay for the release of the remaining six or they will face another 17 months in jail. We decided to first win their release, and then challenge the fines in the Supreme Court.

This is a significant victory, and shows that workers will not be terrorized into submission. Workers here have been caught in the crossfire of US imperialism’s “War on Terror”, and are about to find themselves in the midst of the inter-imperialist rivalry, as China challenges the US for influence here. The only way for workers to meet the challenges of fascist terror and imperialist war is to build a mass PLP and fight for communism. We will have more news of workers’ struggles in future CHALLENGES.✊

Pakistan May Day: Fight Back!

Continued from front page

other comrade who is organizing among taxi drivers convinced his friends and coworkers to raise red flags over their taxis on May Day as well.

Comrades and friends of PLP in Sindh Hari who are landless agricultural workers report that they are organizing our Party among masses of landless farm workers in that region to unite against big feudal lords and to get rid of their barbaric actions and exploitation. We explained that without an international revolutionary communist struggle, we cannot truly get rid of exploitation and poverty! We will fight for the lands controlled by the big landlords. On May Day the landless workers demanded the government implement labor laws to protect farm workers, and erect decent housing for poor workers in Hyderabad, Karachi and other cities of Sindh province.

For the first time in Quetta and Kashmir, young PLP comrades working in a student federation brought workers affiliated with different trade unions and students’ federations under one red flag to celebrate May Day. It was great to see their chanting anti-nationalist and revolutionary slogans like, “One world, one fight, workers of the world unite!” In their May Day speeches, comrades explained before the gathering of poor workers that nationalism is a tool of bosses to divide one working class into different nationalities, ethnicities, sects and races so that workers cannot fight a united struggle against exploitation, poverty, illiteracy and injustices. They concluded that we must unite under one red flag, of the Progressive Labor Party, for an international communist revolution to establish a classless society.

Our Party in Pakistan marches on!✊

'The Future Belongs to Us Only if We Dare to Fight for It!'



This is an excerpt of the main speech at PLP's May Day in NYC

Today, we celebrate the working class. Today, we celebrate our revolutionary force that can't stop and won't stop fighting back!

In Haiti, we fight back! In Mexico, Pakistan, Ferguson, Baltimore, Brooklyn, we fight back!

Today, we celebrate the 50 years that Progressive Labor Party has been a fire under the bosses' ass. We celebrate the 50 years that PLP has been fighting for the communist aspirations of millions of families, youth, and workers! And we are growing in numbers beyond the hundreds present here today, growing beyond the borders of this country — across 28 countries and five continents!

PLP is a powerful, vigorous organization capable of turning the impossible to the possible. But we began small — small but potent.

When the bosses said, "No! Don't strike with the coal miners," what did we do? We struck in solidarity! The front-page headline was, "Communism Comes to Kentucky!"

When Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan terrorized workers and said, "Get back!" — what did we do? We fought back! Whether we marched into their headquarters to smash their brains out in 1975 or beat them with bricks at their own rally, PLP made the fight against racism the heartbeat of our life's work.

When the cops murdered a black teenager in Harlem, the mayor and police commissioner outlawed rallies. So when the bosses and the civil rights leaders said, "Don't take the streets!" — what did we do? We took the streets! Black workers from across the country recognized our political leadership in the Harlem Rebellion.

When everybody else abandoned May Day, the workers' holiday, PL has been celebrating it for 44 years! We march to honor your courage to fight back, to honor workers who have fought back, and to honor our class that will continue to fight back! I know you are tired as hell. Tired of racism, sexism, borders, killer kkkops, slave wages, exploitation, and war. May Day represents abolishing all of that. Everyone here today is the seed for communism: an entire world based on need and collectivity. A world that brings out the best of human potential.

Our class's history says we can win!

1: When Hitler seemingly ruled the world, the Red Army defeated fascism. That was exactly 70 years ago today, when a red soldier waved the red flag over Berlin. Workers did that!

2: Chinese revolutions of 1949 and 1966: Eliminate syphilis, prostitution. Done! Educate the masses and rule society without cops. Workers did that!

3: Fight and defeat the world's most technologically advanced imperialist country with makeshift weapons and untrained soldiers in Vietnam. Workers did that!

These victories required the unshakable commitment

of millions working together as one for a vision of equality. As long as revolution and communism is grounded in the working class, as long as we are entrenched in the lives of our sisters and brothers, there is no stopping communism.

Today, the working class says, "The rebellion in Ferguson? We did that. Baltimore? Yeah, we did that." There will come a day when we look back and say, "Kill capitalism? Yeah, we did that." "Smash racism? Yeah, we did that."

Communism is not just a possibility. Communism is alive!

The *real* impossibility is capitalism.

How do we go from fighting the cops to fighting the oil bosses? PLP. We need one organization leading one world into the final victory. What is victory today? Joining PLP. How can we sustain a victory? Fighting with PLP.

The revolution will be won by the very people the bosses discard as surplus, as useless. The very kids the bosses starve will feed themselves revolution. The very youth the bosses put into prison or declare not worth teaching will be the ones to lead us into communism. They will break free of the biggest jail of all: capitalism.

Make no mistake, that day will come. But it can't happen without you.

Ferguson was a preview. Baltimore was a preview. It was a little taste of what's in store for the bosses. The politicians want to declare war on our kids, from the neighborhoods of Chicago and Brooklyn to the tents in Haiti, Syria, and Ukraine. To the bosses we say: You can't stop the revolution!

Every kid you killed is an inch deeper you dig in your grave. Because the working class never forgets. Who killed Shantel? Who killed Kyam? Who killed Eric? Who Kiki? Who killed Rahmarley? Who killed Freddie? Who killed Mike? Who killed Tyrone? There are too many names! For every kid you kill, a hundred more bear witness to this racist system that feeds off the blood of our youth.

From the birth of exploitation, workers fought back! For fifty years, PLP has been fighting back! Onwards to another fifty years! Because today — May Day — is the beginning of another year of winning thousands to communism. So where do we go from here? We got to turn up! We got to toughen up! We got to bring out the communist aspirations in people and motivate them to act on them!

So sisters and brothers, join us in creating the world we know our kids need. From Baltimore to Nepal, the world calls out to you. This is your chance to join — take the leap! And when you do, you are joining billions of fighters past, present, and future. The future belongs to us only if we dare to fight for it! The fight for communism can't stop, won't stop because workers can, workers did, and workers will continue to fight back! Long live communism! Power to the workers!

The complete May Day speech is available online at plp.org

May Day Reflections

The following letters are reflections of students and workers from a community college in the Bronx, NY who attended May Day on May 2.

"Same struggle, same fight. Workers of the world unite!" was one of the many slogans chanted throughout Flatbush, Brooklyn at the May Day march. This was the first time I have ever been a part of something like this. It was the first time I had ever been in a march at all. As we made our way through the streets, making our presence known and our voices heard, the way the community reacted to us was a very moving experience. People came out from the shops to see what was happening. Those already outside stopped what they were doing. Those inside their apartments sat at their windows looking at us.

It was a beautiful thing to see. While they might have not been marching with us physically, for that moment that we passed by them, there was no denying they were in solidarity with us. People started chanting. There were also people who joined us along the way. The community's reaction made me realize that this was one of the reasons why people marched. It was a way of letting people know that they are not alone in their struggle; we are all part of the same working class. And if we come together, our voices grow louder.

★★★★

I was very impressed that the organizers of the march appeared to be almost all young people. In our society, we are taught that youth cannot be relied on, that they're selfish and egotistical. It was refreshing to see a very good example of how this capitalist idea is wrong. I have confidence not only that young people can organize and lead a march, but also they can organize and lead the entire working class in the fight against capitalism.

★★★★

As a college student, I admired the fact that the march was so organized. The previous marches that I have been to were part of a spur-of-the-moment type of action. This march had a chance to gather more of a crowd. The march was official and it stood for everything I believe in. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I plan on going to more functions.

★★★★

I am a college student from the Bronx and I felt that this march was very inspirational. Also, this was my first march so things were rather new to me. I liked that people who were not in the march took the time to listen to us. Some chanted along with us and some even joined. That just shows that we are inspiring and can move people. If I weren't a part of the march, I would have wanted to join and would have asked many questions. This was a fun and educational experience and it would be nice to be a part of more to come.

★★★★

I am not a communist but I still attended a march organized by the Progressive Labor Party. While I did keep my mouth shut for chants praising communism, there were plenty of chants that I raised my voice for. I screamed for calls against the police, war, and the politicians. Even though I want a different form of government, I respect the values of the PLP. This Party fights for the working class, racial and gender equality, and many more liberal causes. I definitely have no problem turning up with the PLP.

★★★★

I was on the march on Saturday and I was surprised to see how organized it was. It was my first march so I didn't know what to expect. It was good to see how there were people of different ethnicities, genders, and ages. Everybody united for the purpose of ending racism, police brutality, sexism, and other things. Even though the issues were serious, the atmosphere was welcoming. I really enjoyed it and would definitely do it again.

★★★★

I especially enjoyed May Day this year because of the historical continuity of the march. Going to different parts of Brooklyn and hearing about different cases of police brutality was a great move and should be done more often.

Nepal Earthquake: Capitalist Disaster

Two massive earthquakes have recently struck Nepal. The first earthquake on April 25 was 7.8 magnitude and killed more than 8,000 people. The second earthquake struck on May 12, with a magnitude of 7.3, killing over 200 and injuring thousands. Between the two earthquakes, entire villages were flattened with more than 95 percent of all houses destroyed in the area. More than 2 million workers are displaced with hundreds still missing. There is nothing "natural" about this disaster — the earthquakes are created by forces of nature, but the disasters are created by capitalism!

It is not surprising that the quake left so much devastation in its wake. Nepal, like many other countries, has been subjected to decades of imperialist plunder. This, combined with a repressive dictatorship supported by the U.S. and European imperialists, has brought about high levels of inequality that remain in place, despite a change in the political scene. From the 1980s, Nepal also was forced to accept structural adjustment loans imposed upon them by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, forcing the country to cut already-limited social services and programs, and allowing for multinational corporations to privatize and profit on everything from health care to natural resources like grain and water.

The outcome of this disaster is not at all natural. It is the direct result of the failure of capitalism, a system which is based upon inequality, crisis, and un-

preparedness. Capitalism operates according to this "logic" of crisis, which is ultimately seen as profitable and inevitable. Like the environmental devastation in Haiti, the Philippines, or New Orleans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, these disasters expose the inherent racist policies implemented by capitalism, as Black, Latin, and Asian are disproportionately affected and suffer the horrific consequences of such policies.

Many commentators blame the current disaster on bad governmental policy and neglect, which is only one part of the story. In 1934, Nepal experienced an 8.3 earthquake that killed over 8,000 people, and experts have been warning for decades about the next "big one." An article in the *Nepali Times*, written just months before the recent quake, cites the unpreparedness of the current government to deal with the next disaster, calling for "communities... and individual communities to have contingent plans".

The article also drew attention to the crisis in Nepal's internal politics. Since the 2006 electoral victory of the fake "communist" Maoist movement, the coalition government has been squabbling over what type of federal system to in-



May Day celebrated after the first earthquake. Workers in Nepal need communism.

stitute to run the country. These fake revolutionaries have eroded the massive support of workers and students. They originally had, and have since embraced the devastating capitalist policies that further impoverished the country. The heart of the matter is that under capitalism, these kinds of disasters will continue unabated.

The Progressive Labor Party fights to unite the international working class to smash national boundaries along with racism, sexism, and the entire capitalist system.

The Maoist stooges elected into the capitalist government in Nepal claims

to represent the revolutionary legacy of the Chinese revolution of 1949. While socialism was reversed because of concessions to capitalism like maintaining the wage system and inequality, it was through the combined efforts of millions of women and men, not some "great leader" like Mao, who built the dams and dug the canals to prevent workers from needlessly suffering environmental catastrophes.

Under communism, we can coordinate massive efforts around the world in order to ensure that such catastrophes become relics of the capitalist past!✊



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

Imperialism's golden rule: 'those who have the gold make the rules'

GW, 5/15 — Throughout Europe, xenophobic and racist parties shape the agenda, preying on people's ignorance and fear....

The truth is, the facts on immigration don't fit easily...whereas the politics of xenophobia can be condensed into a single sentence. "They're coming here to get what's yours." This, of course, is a lie. Stemming from a system in which borders reflexively open for capital and close for people....

Around 3 billion people live on less than \$2.50 a day. The global 99% did not come about by accident. It's the result of centuries of colonization, decades of imperialism and current corruption that has allowed a handful of people...to steal natural resources and pilfer public goods. As Winston Churchill once said of Britain, "This small island [is] dependent for our daily bread on our trade and imperial connections. Cut this away and at least a third of our population must vanish speedily from the face of the earth."

In more recent times, these inequalities have been reinforced by a global trading system that operates according to the golden rule — that those who have the gold make the rules....Europe is rich (even if those riches aren't evenly divided) in no small part because other nations are poor.

On top of that, a large number of these people are displaced by wars....Many are running for their lives through countries [Western rulers] have bombed.

Empty promises—Bangladesh garment exploitation continues

GW, 5/1 — Workers in factories in Bangladesh making clothes for western firms continue to suffer from poor working conditions two years after a factory collapse that killed 1,100 people and prompted widespread promises of reforms....com[ing] on the second

anniversary of the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory....

Following the disaster, retailers and Bangladesh's government promised widespread reforms....

Researchers interviewed more than 160 workers from 44 factories....They heard complaints of physical assault, verbal abuse, forced overtime, unsanitary conditions, denial of paid maternity leave, and failure to pay wages and bonuses on time or in full.

Capitalism killing poorest children, especially in Obama's backyard

NYT, 5/5 — In two-thirds of the 36 developing countries...the poorest urban children are at least twice as likely to die as their wealthier counterparts....

...The disparities were just as prevalent in the big cities of some of the wealthiest nations as they were in poorer nations....

The greatest disparities are in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, India, Madagascar, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda and Vietnam, the [Save the Children] report said. Urban children from poor families in these countries are three to five times as likely to die as children in relatively affluent families.

In the United States...babies born in the lowest-income areas of Washington are more than 10 times as likely to die than babies in the wealthier parts of the city. Washington ranked last for child survival rates among the capital cities of the 25 wealthiest countries....

In the United States, which slipped in the rankings to 33rd from 31st a year ago, a child is just as likely to die as a child in Bosnia-Herzegovina or Serbia.

Israeli rulers raze Bedouin village 83 times —and charges for its demolition!

Mondoweiss, 5/11 — The unrecognized Bedouin village of al-Araqib was in court...where the state of Israel argued the southern desert town must pay \$500,000 to cover the cost of the demolitions, and more than 1,000 police deployed to carry out the destruction. Since 2010 al-Araqib has been razed to the ground 83 times....

In Israel around half of the Bedouin population, 90,000 Arab-Palestinian herders, live in towns the state

does not view as legitimate. Without "recognition," these villages are pre-approved for demolition....

...This is the first case in Israel's history where an entire town was told it must pay for its destruction....

Israel has demolished more than 27,000 homes in the occupied Palestinian territory since its occupation began in 1967....

After...rebuilding their homes just as many times, al-Araqib's residents are now cramped in tents between gravestones....in the town's cemetery.

Slavery built New York City and Wall Street, 'geographical birthplace of American capitalism'

NYT, 5/8 — Of all the commodities traded...on Wall Street, the one that goes discreetly unmentioned... is human beings — the anxious throngs of kidnapped slaves that the New York City government routinely rented and auctioned off across half a century at the end of Wall Street at the East River....

...Slaves'...labor built much of the city's infrastructure, including the early City Hall, stretches of Broadway and the signature wall that first defined Wall Street.... The city did indeed run a profitable slave market, rivaled only by Charleston, S.C. as a hub for the American slave traffic....

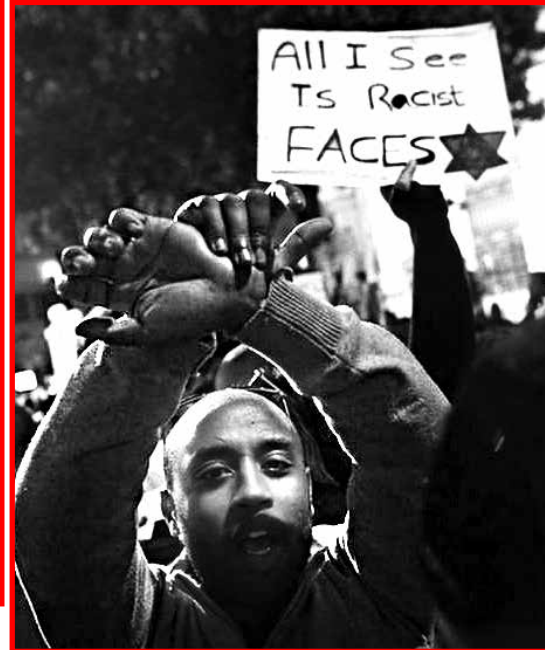
...The open-air slave market was erected in 1711,... to centralize the traffic in slave trade. These were years when as many as 20 percent of New Yorkers were slaves, their labor making life so much easier for about 40 percent of the city's households....

...That...city slave market operated at the geographical birthplace of American capitalism....

...New York profited enormously from slave labor, enriching Northerners who bankrolled Southern plantations, then Civil War military suppliers and some big corporations that are still around, like Aetna, New York Life and JPMorgan Chase. The city was so intertwined with slavery that Mayor Fernando Wood proposed secession as the Civil War approached rather than lose the rich cotton trade with the South.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Black Workers Rebel vs. Israeli Racism



TEL-AVIV-JAFFA, May 16 — Within days of workers and youth rebelling against racist cops in Baltimore, U.S., thousands of Ethiopian-Jewish workers protested in the streets of Tel-Aviv against apartheid. Like Ferguson and Baltimore, Black workers here lead the way in fighting racism.

They battled the cops and were not deterred by tear gas and stun grenades. While in the West Bank these weapons are used on a daily basis, this was the first time these “riot control” weapons were used in Tel-Aviv proper. Police cars were turned over. More than 23 cops were injured, and over 40 protesters were arrested.

Unlike the largely peaceful protests connected to the worldwide Occupy movement of 2011, this time workers fought with all their might against the racist cops. The protestors blocked the Ayalon Highway for three hours and resisted the cops’ attempts to remove them. Many other white Jewish and a few Palestinians workers united in fighting the violent cops. Thousands of Ethiopian workers and youth demonstrated in front of the Israeli Police Headquarters in Jerusalem.

The reason for this protest was to fight racist violence against Ethiopian workers. The trigger was on April 27, when two policemen beat up and arrested Damas Fikadeh. He is a young Ethiopian who serves as an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier in Holon, a city south of Tel-Aviv. What is Damas’s crime? He is a Black worker under capitalism. Israeli police thrive on racist violence against Black, Arab, and migrant workers.

The State of Israel brought many Ethiopian Jews here in the 1980s and ‘90s as a source of cheap labour for Israeli bosses to employ in minimum wage and dead-end jobs. Racism is the order of the day for Black workers in Israel. Ethiopians are forced into slum neighborhoods and are targets of police terror. While Ethiopians are 2 percent of the population, they make up 30 percent in juvenile jails. Over 41 percent live in official poverty. Unemployment is twice as high among Ethiopians compared to other Jewish Israelis. The racist system that segregates Black youth into racist housing and schools is the same system that controls the Black population by forcibly injecting Ethiopian women with birth control. The Israeli blood bank also rejects or dumps blood donated by Ethiopians. The tremor of rebellion here is about the systematic racism against Black workers.

The Baltimore KKKonection

The link between the U.S. and Israel is one of racism and fightback. Whether it’s Baltimore, Ferguson, Holon, or Jerusalem, Black workers suffer the brunt of racist attacks from the ruling class. From one imperialist country to another, Black workers are a key revolutionary force. Whenever the most exploited sector of the working class fights back, it serves as an example for workers everywhere. There is also another connection between Baltimore and Israel: the racist cops are trained by the same forces. Nearly every major police department in the U.S. gets training from Israel, the experts of Apartheid and racist occupation. Among them were Baltimore kkkops who learned “crowd control” strategies,

“gathering intelligence” lessons and other methods of domination. These Israeli-trained kkkops terrorize Black workers throughout the United States.

Black Workers Lead the Way

These Ethiopian workers and youth showed the working class the way forward to crush the racist system that oppresses us all — not by peaceful protest, but by open rebellion against racism. Surrendering to police demands and listening to misleaders who call for “peaceful protest” will not end racism. The only way to end police terror is by confronting the class enemies — the cops and their racist lords, the big bosses — and fighting them on all fronts. The cops have guns, stun grenades and tear gas, but we the workers greatly outnumber them. We must overcome the racist divisions the bosses put upon us and unite based on class. If Palestinian, Jewish, and Black workers unite, workers can become a force capable of defeating capitalism and replacing it with a system of equality for all ethnicities—communism.

Another lesson from this important struggle is that when workers fight back, they are violently attacked. No matter how much the police chief apologizes for individual abuses of power by rank-and-file cops, it is not just “a few rotten apples” but the whole rotten system.

However, this system is not without weakness. The police command prevented Ethiopian cops (many of whom are Border Guard soldiers, essentially enlisted soldiers pressed into the police) from working at the protest locations. The cops fear that many of these soldiers will switch sides and fight for their families and friends, not for the bosses.

Need Multiracial Unity and Red Leadership

The struggle continues and there will be more demonstrations. As communists, PLP here know from similar cases in history that limited to ethnic liberation struggle alone, the Israeli bosses will be able to suppress this struggle or buy off its leaders. The protest needs two things to grow into a revolutionary movement.



First, the fightback must be multiracial and include all oppressed workers suffering from apartheid, like African refugees and Palestinians. It must also include white Jewish workers. Workers from Palestine to Israel must unite to see that we are part of one struggle for justice, which means a world without racist bosses, whether it is here in Israel or in the U.S.

Second, this struggle needs communist leadership that will be able to move it from a struggle against police terror to a struggle against the racist system of capitalism itself. While we are modest PLP branch in this country, we will fight for these politics in everywhere.✪

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