

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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# SMASH ALL BORDERS!



Three year-old Aylan Kurdi, lying drowned on a beach in Turkey after his family's desperate flight from Syria, is one of millions murdered or displaced by capitalist terror. Workers become refugees because their lives are unbearable and their homes unliveable. The root cause is U.S. imperialism, a plague that devastates the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Working-class families are forced to brave suffocating containers, perilous

overland crossings, and flimsy rubber rafts. They are compelled to entrust their lives to human traffickers, the callous predators who ape the capitalist bosses in putting profit first and last. Those lucky enough to survive their journey to Europe or the U.S.—mothers, fathers, children—come up against police attacks, razor wire, concentration camps, and racist abuse in places they hope might offer a better life. Women workers face sex-

ist violence and maternal and reproductive health crises. Their children are dying en masse.

The latest refugee crisis is one more indictment of capitalism, a system that treats workers as disposable commodities. The international working class has responded by fighting back and serving the masses. All along the way, workers have

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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

# Smash All Borders



As doors of a train opened in Germany, a chant began: "Say it loud, say it clear, refugees are welcome here!" While the ruling class responded with tear gas, stun grenades, rubber bullets, water cannons, and concentration camps, workers have greeted refugees with food, clothing, medicine, toys, and housing. Millions have rejected the bosses' attempts to divide workers with anti-Muslim racism. Everywhere, the working class must respond with solidarity and rejection of these capitalist borders.

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greeted refugees with food, clothing, medicine, and housing. Millions have rejected the bosses' attempts to divide workers with anti-Muslim racism or the capitalist competition for jobs, a by-product of a system that can never meet workers' needs. The Progressive Labor Party strives to emulate their example in serving our class. We struggle to build class consciousness into the fight for a world with no refugees or imperialist war. PLP fights to win millions to the vision of a communist world, and to smash racist borders once and for all.

### Imperialism Attacks Refugees Twice

Under imperialism, workers in places like Syria, Afghanistan and Eritrea are assaulted twice. Syria, which alone accounts for 4 million refugees and another 8 million displaced within its borders, is a pawn in the competition between imperialist powers to control the vast oil wealth of the Middle East. In an effort to tilt the balance of regional power and counter the influence of Iran, a Russian proxy, U.S. bosses have financed a brutal rebellion against the state-terrorist, pro-Russian Assad regime. This four-year-old conflict has besieged workers with chemical weapons, routine bombings of civilians, torture and mass imprisonment. The resulting destabilization has created an opening for the murderous Islamic State, junior capitalists with their own designs on the region's oil profits. Critical infrastructure—electrical power, clean water, distribution of food and medicine—has been devastated. Workers have no choice but to leave, by any means possible.

The second attack comes with the racist terror these workers face at every step of their route to whatever destinations will admit them. Hungary, a gateway to the European Union (EU), is busy building a fence along its 110-mile border with Serbia. Anti-immigrant vigilantes are on the march in the Czech Republic; fascist parties are gaining strength in France and Italy. British Prime Minister David Cameron is leading the racist charge among capitalist politicians to warn of the refugee "swarm." French President Francois Hollande called the port city of Calais a "jungle" and com-

plained that truckloads of dead refugees are hurting insurance companies' balance sheets.

When thousands of refugees chant "Germany! Germany!" in a Hungarian train station, it reflects Germany's relatively high standard of living—the fruit of decades of immigrant exploitation and the destruction of weaker Eurozone economies like Greece. With their profits threatened by an aging population, the German bosses hope that an influx of 800,000 refugees will keep their profits humming. Their cynical attempt to save face comes after years of neglect for economic refugees from Africa and the former Yugoslavia, where German imperialism supported the U.S. slaughter in Serbia and turned a blind eye to the refugees the U.S. bombing created.

### Workers Have No Borders

Germany is the leading finance capitalist power within the EU, a free-travel zone created by the bosses for more efficient trade and exploitation of workers. But as the numbers of refugees escalate and the costs of social services climb, a number of EU countries have balked and are restoring border controls. The capitalist rulers draw national boundaries to divide the international working class. Meanwhile, capital—the profit derived from workers' hands and brains—flows freely from one country to the next. The international working class has no need for these artificial lines.

Three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, along with his brother and mother, was murdered by racist capitalism while attempting to join relatives in Canada. Thousands of others have died without any headlines. For U.S. and European bosses, the solution is more fascism and war—more air strikes, more mass murders, more refugees.

Workers must respond with class-conscious solidarity. Who are the bosses to draw borders? Who are they to say who should go where? The international working class will erase national boundaries and the racist, imperialist system that created them. We fight to build a mass international PLP. We fight for armed revolution for a communist world. To the workers of the world we say: Our class alone can build a world without nations or refugees. Join us!✊

## Haiti Fights Back

# From the Masses, To the Masses

**HAITI, August 27**—“Why don’t those delinquent politicians like you? The people agree with you and take part in your march,” a worker watching a PLP-led demonstration in the south of Haiti asked a comrade. Our comrade replied, “Our struggle is the struggle of the masses for the masses, not for a single individual who wants power in order to get rich on their backs.” The struggle against capitalism continues in Haiti! More than 650 workers, students and youth, professionals and unemployed workers demonstrated today against hunger, poverty, the high cost of living and mass unemployment.

The Progressive Labor Party is building class-consciousness, organizing and mobilizing the masses around the intrinsic problems of capitalism. Hundreds of people marched for miles with signs, banners and tree branches in hand. Symbolically alluding to hunger, drought and the inaccessibility of water, people came with pots, plates, spoons, glasses and other makeshift instruments to animate the march.

### Strike While Iron is Hot!

After the demonstration on July 28 (see CHALLENGE 9/2), marking the 100th anniversary of the first U.S. invasion of Haiti, our comrades and close friends worked for a month to organize a second big action against hunger and poverty, as demanded by our base. After an evaluation of the first march, PLP members and close friends met several times to discuss how to move forward. Together we planned the next action, which was held today. As communists, we are developing a sense of how to organize class struggle. For a month, posters were put up throughout the area, hundreds of leaflets distributed, banners posted, and statements distributed to media both locally and in the capital. We mobilized door-to-door so everyone knew the plan. Our comrades dug in to discuss the source of the hunger, poverty and unemployment that workers here are facing. Using megaphones and

a local radio station, we got our message out in all the neighborhoods.

Workers are developing confidence in the Party’s ideas, and are engaging with us. One close friend lent his motorcycle to a comrade for a full week. Artists and calligraphers are writing banners without charge on materials we provide. One young man lent his family’s generator for sound; a woman donated gas for it. Another friend guaranteed the sound system. Some friends made sure there was water for all the demonstrators in the stultifying heat of a summer day in Haiti. During the demonstration, a former militant mass leader and other community leaders put forward useful ideas and helped guarantee security.

### Confidence in the Workers

From the beginning, the police had wanted to stop the march. But all the workers stood firm alongside the comrades of PLP. When the march crossed a major highway, local residents lined the route. Drivers and travelers who received leaflets and CHALLENGEs voiced their solidarity with the struggle. One worker pointed out how this march, disciplined and with a clear political line, was the exact opposite of the free-for-all organized by politicians during this election season. We then denounced the elections as part of the bosses’ plan to keep power in the hands of those few who have created the misery that faces working people here.

With two demonstrations in the space of one month, some workers were worried about the absence of the capitalist media, whose representatives wanted to be paid to cover our action. That’s capitalism: trying to smother the shouts of the working class. But thanks to some forward thinking by our comrades, the message got out anyway, including some live coverage by a young journalist. The workers are committed to getting our message out ourselves—not relying on the bosses’ media, but on our own initiatives.



### Onward to Building a Mass PLP!

Today’s demonstration is part of a long-range plan to develop class consciousness, including conferences on hunger, poverty, documentaries, permanent posters and banners in the streets, and an open letter to the political misleaders. We are organizing study/action groups and freedom schools to understand and act against the sources of workers’ oppression, using local radio stations to agitate. We will also participate in existing mass organizations of city and farm workers, students and professionals to put forward our politics

and win others to join PLP. Our goal is to train masses of new communist leaders.

In this continuing struggle, PLP is proving that we are honest and serious, and can win the masses with our politics instead of material incentives. We are challenging the capitalist politicians. Workers here are being inspired to fight capitalism and build for communist revolution. The PLP, our international communist party, is engaged in class struggle throughout the world. Wherever PLP is fighting back, revolutionary consciousness is growing and the masses will become more and more confident of victory!✊

## Letter

# 33,000 Strike Against Israeli State

**ISRAEL-PALESTINE, September 16** — The Zionist government continues its racism against the 20 percent Palestinian minority within the state. According to Minister of Education Naftali Bennett, the new school year in Israel began on September 1 in an orderly fashion. The 33,000 Palestinian-Israeli students on strike since the first day of school disagree! These students attend 47 “community schools” administered by a private Christian church whose existence precedes Israel’s itself. The schools teach students of all religions and employ teachers of all sectors as well.

These schools reject the racist brainwashing curriculum of the Ministry of Education. The Palestinian nationality is preserved in these non-government schools. Students are told the truth about the Nakba, or “catastrophe” in Arabic, the forcible expulsion in 1947-48 of 750,000 Palestinians and the destruction of over 500 villages by terrorists who would become the leaders of the future Israeli state. Government schools teach the lie that all Palestinians voluntarily left rather than live with Jews.

Furthermore, the relatively high quality of this education results in 94 percent of the graduates ending up with an academic degree. In fact, out of all Palestinian academics within Israel, 84 percent of those in technology, medicine, and law are alumni of the private Christian schools.

Naturally, the Israeli state is threatened by the idea

of educating Palestinian students, whom it treats as second-class citizens, and has been cutting the Christian schools’ budgets year after year. The crisis escalated this year. In addition to cutting the budget, the state is limiting the fees these schools are allowed to charge parents. Private Jewish schools still get 100 percent funding from the state. A Palestinian student in Israel gets 29 percent of what a Jewish student would get.

For the past two weeks, there has been only limited coverage in the Israeli media. The capitalist state has offered two “solutions” — either these schools become official state schools, which would definitely abolish the only places where students get an alternative to the Zionist version of history, or they become schools for rich Arab people only. Considering the majority of Arabs in Israel are below average financially, this option would make the church money. But, it would also force many students to go to state Israeli schools. Lastly, many of these private schools are the only option in places where the State hasn’t even provided official schools for the Arab families.

To support this struggle, here is a link to a statement signed by a large group of Palestinian-Israeli academics on this issue: <https://www.facebook.com/hossam.haick/posts/508729419305184>.

The racist and savage anti-Palestinian ideas and practices of the Israeli government are used to justify and win Jewish workers to support its existence as a vi-

olent state where only Jews enjoy full rights. However, Jewish workers do not profit from this racism. While Palestinian workers suffer more directly and sharply from the occupation and racism, Jewish workers also endure high unemployment, low wages, housing shortages and a militaristic culture. So long as bosses are able to keep workers separated physically or ideologically, all workers will suffer.

Neither Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas — or any other boss, politician, Jewish or Arab — is a friend of the working class. All of them maintain their power and profits from the exploitation of workers. And they build and depend on racism, nationalism, sexism and religion to divide us.

For a better world where all children can live in true peace, justice and egalitarianism, all workers in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, whether Jewish, Arab, African, refugee or immigrant, must unite to fight back. As a united working class, we can rid the world of capitalism and the exploitation, racism, wars and other horrors inflicts upon us.✊

*Editor’s note: Let’s fight in solidarity with these striking students, and raise communist ideas. These Christian schools are limited by their own religious and Palestinian nationalist ideology. The fight against racist cuts to education must be coupled with a rejection all religion, nationalism, and borders.*

# Tanzania: Albino Workers Murdered for Profit

Albinos workers are being mutilated in Tanzania (76 since 2007), and their body parts sold to witch doctors. Men are raping albino women to cure themselves of HIV-AIDS. Who bears the blame for these atrocities? So-called "human nature"? The ignorance and superstition of the masses? Corrupt Tanzanian government officials? Profiteers—the witchdoctors and middlemen who abduct, mutilate, and kill?

Knowing who or what to blame leads us to the solution. The international Progressive Labor Party lays the blame squarely on imperialism, the competition among capitalist bosses that keeps the working class mired in ignorance, misery and desperation. Capitalism has transformed the centuries-old discrimination against albino workers into a profit-inspired atrocity. Only by destroying this system can we liberate our class from the rule of profit and build a truly humane society: communism.

## Tanzania Workers Enter a Dark Night

In 1985, the capitalist class in Tanzania agreed to comply with the U.S.-backed International Monetary Fund (IMF) to boost profits. The Tanzanian government eliminated free health care, subsidies for farmers, laws that prevented politicians from investing in business, and many more gains won during Tanzania's earlier pro-Soviet/Chinese period. In order to fool the workers into accepting these attacks, the ruling class promised the workers empty "get rich quick" schemes, the illusion that everyone could become a capitalist boss.

The working class in the fishing industry around Lake Victoria and the mining industry around Shinyanga and Geita were the most vulnerable. These industries were European capitalist-owned with an all-African workforce. For years, the workers had seen these bosses become wealthy from exploiting Tanzanian resources and workers.

But without a communist movement, they had no way of understanding the inner workings of imperialist exploitation. When their livelihoods collapsed, they were susceptible to being lured into a strange and horrible new "occult economy"—the buying and selling of the body parts of albino people.

## Modern Origins of Ritual Murder

In the 1950s, British colonial officers stocked Lake Victoria with a fish called Nile Perch. It was to be a new "cash crop," exported as a delicacy more profitable than coffee or cotton, while the European bosses exported automatic weapons on the return flights to fuel imperialist-backed civil wars on the African continent.

But for 40,000 local fishermen in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, all bordering Lake Victoria, this capitalist ecological experiment turned out to be a disaster. The locals couldn't afford to buy the motor boats or fishing gear that were necessary to catch the Nile Perch that lived in the rougher, deeper parts of the lake. Furthermore, Nile Perch, like the British, turned out to be vile predators—killing every living thing in the lake, from algae to the smaller fish the locals depended on.

In the 1980s, European, Asian, and Israeli capitalists were allowed by the Tanzanian government to build fish processing plants in the cities around Lake Victoria. The fishing industry was booming, but true to the capitalist business cycle, the predictable bust followed. By 2005, the lake was overfished, factories had closed or were operating below capacity, and workers' livelihoods were ruined. This story is told in the documentary film, *Darwin's Nightmare* (2004), by Hupert Suaper.

It is no coincidence that the first murder of an albino person occurred shortly after this crisis, in 2007. Witch doctors made a promise to desperate fishermen that the golden hair of albinos, spun into their fishing nets, would attract fish and make them rich, and that albino body parts, made into amulets, would usher in other kinds of good fortune. Some workers, infected by capitalist greed and individualism, became middlemen in the trade of albino body parts to witch doctors.

## Bosses' Solution: Blame the Workers

Predictably, the capitalist press has reported extensively on this "barbaric, backward, human rights disaster" while neglecting to connect the 'occult economy' to the crimes of capitalism—the destruction of workers' livelihoods, imperialist exploitation of resources, and the failed promise of the "free" market.

There is no justice under capitalism. President Ja-

kaya Kikwete and other politicians are using these atrocities to expand their power and establish legitimacy with the international capitalist community. They have reinstated the death penalty for those found guilty of participating in the trading of albino body parts, and instituted a method for neighbors to anonymously turn in those they suspect of being middlemen. These measures help them pass the so-called "human rights" test, guaranteeing a steady flow of money from the United Nations, NGOs and other funders who use "human rights" as a smokescreen for imperialism. At the same time, these politicians created tax laws that exempt most international companies from paying taxes for the first ten years. Along with tax evasions by businesses, this amounts to more money per year than what the UN says cut poverty levels in half (<http://www.policyforum-tz.org/files/Howmuchrevenueare-losing.pdf>). Politicians are rewarded with luxury for fanning the flames of poverty -that make the working class of Tanzania vulnerable to the witchdoctors' scams.

## Good Morning, Revolution

When the Tanzanian ruling class unleashed this era of naked exploitation and robbery in the 1980s, they left the workers as bad off or worse than they were during British colonialism. The murders of albino people have to be seen within this context. As dark as the situation seems, the solution – communist revolution – must be seen in context as well. Throughout the first two-thirds of the 20th century, under the leadership of the international communist movement, workers around the world, including Tanzania, made great strides in the class war. The capitalists have been on the offensive since then to take back everything the workers won. The Progressive Labor Party fights to end the dark night faced by our international class by organizing a mass, PLP for armed revolution, from East Africa to Latin America. Only communism can outlaw profit-making and build a society that values all workers' lives, because communism means the working class is in power. Under communism we will put behind us once and for all the depraved practices spawned by capitalism, and unleash a new era dedicated to the health and well-being of our class throughout the world. ☺

# Abolish Wage Slavery

**NEW YORK CITY, September 16** — Governor Andrew Cuomo's Fast Food Wage Board recently recommended that the state's minimum wage for fast food workers be raised to \$15 per hour. The decision is a big victory for the Fight for Fifteen movement (FF15). But we cannot be fooled. This is a victory not for the working class, but for the liberal bosses.

FF15 is a stage for the liberal faction of the ruling class to try to win the allegiance of fast food workers and pacify them. No doubt, the rebellions over the past year from Ferguson to Baltimore have had a lot to do with this concession. The rulers can't hope to wage imperialist war and maintain their empire if workers and youth are rebelling in the streets. Terror alone won't work. So everyone from Cuomo to presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to Labor Secretary Tom Perez has joined the Fight for Fifteen. With the growing threat of war, the living and working conditions for our class will deteriorate.

The FF15 concession serves another purpose for the bosses: dividing the working class. This concession only includes fast food workers. It excludes retail workers, Emergency Medical Technicians, restaurant workers, and many more who make less than \$15/hr. In the current auto contract talks between the United Automobile Workers union and General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, thousands of second-tier Big 3 assembly workers are making \$15 or less. In the parts supplier industry, wages are even lower. Many unions, including many Service Employees International Union (SEIU) locals, have been slow to support the campaign because many of their own workers are making less than \$15 an hour. Workers are fighting over crumbs when the bosses run away with the whole cake!

Though FF15 is being lauded as a great victory, \$15 an hour is only \$600 a week before taxes, and not enough to pay the rent and buy groceries. In 1960, the nominal minimum hourly wage was \$1, but that is equal to nearly \$8 today, after inflation. In fact, the



April 2015: College students take the streets in protest

real minimum wage peaked in 1968 at \$8.54 an hour (2014 dollars). Since then, the purchasing power of the minimum wage has been falling every year. If it kept pace with increases in productivity, the minimum wage would over \$22.

## No to Lousy Nickel, Need Hammer and Sickle

Aside from the economics, the bosses are buying our allegiance to capitalism with \$15. However much the minimum wage varies, exploitation is an absolute under capitalism. PLP envisions a different kind of society, where the value of labour cannot be stamped with nickels and dimes. We need a system where workers collectively decide what and how to produce, how to distribute it — all based on collectivity, not wages.

This struggle for a higher minimum wage has involved tens of thousands of fast food workers, many

supporting families on poverty wages. Black and Latin workers make up 40 percent of the workforce, and 73 percent are women. Along with the recent rebellions and mass marches against the police, this campaign has been one of the main anti-racist and anti-sexist struggles in recent years. Many fast food workers have also been active in the recent mass marches against racist police terror. The cops, the bosses, the state and its politicians are all part of the ruling class. It's up to communists to link the minimum-wage struggle to the anti-kkkops struggle as one unified fight against capitalism.

We cannot settle for \$15/hour. Raising the minimum wage is merely giving workers breadcrumbs when we could have the whole loaf! What we need most of all is to abolish wage slavery with communist revolution and a mass PLP. ☺

# STRAIGHT OUTTA CAPITALISM

"We aren't pro-violence, our music reflects the reality we live in," the actor portraying O'Shea "Ice Cube" Jackson says in one scene to a journalist in the recently released film *Straight Outta Compton*. He continues, "I thought we were here to talk about Rodney King...you can't treat people like that and not expect them to rise up."

Racist police terror, from the everyday harassment of the Black youth living in South Central Los Angeles to the 1992 rebellions against the savage police beating of Rodney King, frame the rap group NWA utilized to make their music. *Straight Outta Compton* follows the rise of Dr. Dre, Ice Cube and Eazy-E. It is a piece of capitalist garbage that dodges every opportunity to confront racism, even though racism pervades almost every scene of the film. Which makes sense, because the present-day multi-millionaire capitalists Dr. Dre, Ice Cube and Eazy's widow were all producers of this movie, and owe their vast fortunes to being part of the very dictatorship of capitalism their music pretends to rebel against.

## Fightback Takes Back Seat

NWA's biggest hit and anthem of the Rodney King anti-racist rebellion, "F\*\*\* tha Police," and the fight against racism that followed are still relevant today. It is Black youth that have been rebelling and taking the streets of Ferguson, Baltimore, New York and Los Angeles. Instead of focusing on racism and the politics of living under every day police terror that fired NWA, however, the film focuses instead their personal struggles to become business owners. The racism that the film shows influencing them, and the heroism of the Black youth who fought back, take a back seat to the business aspirations of the young trio. Eazy-E sheds tears of disgust when the police who beat King are all acquitted from the living room of his mansion, while Dre rides through South Central in the middle of the rebellion in his new Mercedes.

NWA's gangsta rap has its roots in the rise of gang and drug activity in South Central LA during the 70s and 80s. Ice Cube had it right when he described the gritty realities their music responds to. Art, in the form of paintings, literature or rap, is communication, and the artists' starting points are the social and cultural environments they live in and the language they use to describe them. In the late 1980s, the art that NWA pioneered emerged from LA gang culture. LA gang culture began as a response to the crisis in political leadership that followed the anti-racist rebellions and strike waves of the 1960s and 70s. Where was the political leader-

ship of the next generation of Black youth suppose to come from?

The vacuum in political leadership would spawn the rise of gangs, especially the the Crips and the Bloods, moniker adopted by Black soldiers serving in Vietnam. These were originally street clubs of Black youth that lived under mass unemployment, racial segregation and poverty after many of the old LA Automotive industry shut down and left the city (GM, Ford, Chrysler, Firestone and Goodyear) leaving the city with empty fields and broken down businesses, if there were any. The two would become the biggest gangs to run the streets of LA and later branch out across the country.

Ten years after the 1965 Watts Rebellion, workers lives were worse off, especially when the gang rivalry between the Crips and the Bloods hit a new high when crack cocaine hit LA in '81, spawned by the CIA, as a part of the Iran-Contra Affair. The best this movie did to address the capitalist sources of drugs and weapons is one passing comment by Ice Cube's character. In a television interview, Cube wonders out loud how, if AK-47s are made in Russia, cocaine from Colombia, and nobody he knows of in the community has a passport, then who was "really" bringing them in. The movie abruptly cut to the next scene.

## Rampant Sexism

With a few scenes portraying the capitalist media's racist hostility to rap music, and period news clips attacking "gangsta rap" and denigrating the form as something less than "art," the movie doesn't explore what NWA's members describe as "reality rap." Capitalism creates the racist reality that fuels their art, ignored by the movie, as well as the rampant sexism the main characters were infected by, perpetrated, and symbolized. Eazy-E was well known for having multiple relationships and unprotected sex, which led to his death from HIV. His dying message was "If it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone." There is no mention of the increasing numbers of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, mass incarceration and substance abuse that continues to plague the Black community. Eazy's past as a drug dealer is glamorized, while saying nothing about the rise of homeless workers, rise of substance abuse and the closure of mental institutions that happened during the Reagan era.

Another important part of "reality" left out in the movie is Dr. Dre's history of violence towards women. His ex-girlfriend (and the mother of his children), Michel'le and the journalist, Dee Barnes, have publicly spoken out about Dre's history of assaulting women.

While occurring during the events of the film, it was never mentioned. The real-life Dr. Dre even went as far as putting out an apologetic statement: "I apologize to the women I've hurt...I deeply regret what I did and know that it has forever impacted all our lives." This was a statement that was backed up by Apple, who paid Dre \$3.2 billion for the Beats headphones and streaming-music companies he co-founded, and currently employs him. While his albums and films receive maximum publicity, his long history of sexist violence against women are swept under the rug, and his sexist portrayals of women in his "reality" music are ignored, as long as his products rake in profits.

NWA's fame was created by major ruling-class institutions: record labels, distribution networks, MTV, radio stations and more. While the film isn't shy about showing the record labels' exploitation of NWA by manipulating the members into bad contracts and the millions made marketing their image for profit, NWA wasn't spreading revolutionary ideas. They were spewing false consciousness about "making it" — becoming bosses and running their own empires.

In the end, Dr. Dre and Ice Cube become mirror capitalist reflections in the image of the very system that still condemns South Central to mass unemployment, poverty, and drugs. Women play no role in the film, except as sex objects for the main characters. We can't turn a blind eye when the media impacts our culture and feeds only lies to our working class brothers and sisters! The dehumanization and sexist portrayal of women in this film reveals their justification for sexist violence against them, which is conveniently brushed over or ignored entirely. *Straight Outta Compton* is nothing but well-marketed garbage straight out of capitalism. It is a betrayal of the masses of workers and youth they dare to claim to still represent.

PLP's answer is fight back to abolish racism, sexism, nationalism, and our solution is a communist revolution. Along the way we will create our own culture, culture that reflects, is written by, and is about the heroes of rebellions like in LA in 1992 or in the streets of Ferguson and Baltimore today. Our anthems will be composed by and for the masses of refugees stuffing into leaky boats and braving barbed wire to reach the safety of other lands. The communist culture we create celebrates our class, rebellion and communist revolution, and celebrates collectivity in its creation and participation. Most importantly, communist culture has no tolerance for pretenders and class enemies like Dr. Dre or Ice Cube. ☺

## Toby Schwartz: Communist for Life

The life of Toby "Teddy" Schwartz (1928-2015) reads like a handbook for communists. He was a beloved family member, friend, and comrade. Toby helped to build the Progressive Labor Party and modeled how to win people to its ideas and to organize campaigns of class struggle.

### Fighter from the Get-Go

Toby was raised in an immigrant family committed to fighting for workers and social justice. His mother was a seamstress and International Ladies Garment Workers Union organizer, his uncle a Bolshevik. From a young age, Toby committed himself to fighting against capitalism and racism. In 1939, he joined the Young Communist League (YCL), becoming a state youth leader in 1942. Four years later, at 18, he joined with Paul Robeson in the American Youth for Democracy. In his teens, Toby joined the Communist Party (CP-USA). Toby understood that to build an egalitarian world without racism, oppression, or class warfare, one needed to act courageously.

In 1949, as a student at City College of New York (CCNY), Toby helped to lead an anti-racist struggle to fire two racist, anti-Semitic professors. As part of a group of CCNY students led by the YCL, Toby helped to lead a campus-wide strike against racism that eventually involved thousands of students, many of whom had just returned from fighting fascism and racism in Europe during World War II. The resulting weeklong strike shut down the entire campus, a first for a major U.S. college.

### Helped Found PLP

During the late 1950s, he and other members of the CP-USA became critical of the party's politics. After

unsuccessfully trying to lead a struggle within the organization to fight for the international working class, Toby joined with a group of 30 who quit the CP in December 1961. Six months later, Toby was among the group of comrades who founded what was to become the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party.

While working toward his PhD in Buffalo in 1964, Toby was active in a PLP chapter that included steel and auto workers. The fascist House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) launched a witch-hunt to "rout the radicals." Toby and others were subpoenaed to appear before HUAC. Many lost their jobs. But they were not silenced; they organized to openly challenge the very right of HUAC to exist. During the hearings, Toby disrupted the proceedings. He grabbed a microphone that was being used to bug the defense table. Soon he was in a grappling match with federal marshals. Three dragged him from the hall. An Associated



Press photographer captured the scene and the picture hit front pages across the country. PLP led a counter-attack that saw 1,500 students, workers and professors picket the hearings and launch a campaign that drove HUAC from the city and to its eventual demise.

**Continued on page 7**

# LETTERS

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

## Ferguson: Sick of Capitalism

"We are sick of living in fear!" said a resident in Mike Brown's neighborhood in Ferguson, Missouri, to a PLP comrade distributing CHALLENGE during our recent summer project there. Recently my Texas comrades and I arrived in a Ferguson immersed in struggle. The first night we engaged in a rally set up by a local group of Black rebel youth, Lost Voices. We marched to the police station, gave speeches, and led a couple chants. The next day we sold CHALLENGE in the neighborhood and did some of the most inspiring things I've ever been a part of.

One morning we went to a church held workshop on civil disobedience. We not only learned new tactics to defend ourselves from the police, but ALSO learned just how fed up the working class is with racist police terror. The multiracial group of workers who came to the workshops were from the community. While there was disagreement about particular passive tactics used in civil disobedience, there was widespread agreement with the need to fight back with militancy. This shows just how far the fight against racism has come. Communities of workers are now turning towards violent action, instead of the passive silent marches. The workers understood that passivity will not change racism or capitalism. The church wanted to take the workshop group to the streets and demonstrate in front of the federal building in St. Louis, but my comrades and I thought the demonstration would be more effective if they had decided to march to the Ferguson police station. The church holds major influence over the community. This disagreement taught us a lot about our need to build political bases in community mass organizations, and build deep ties with workers in them. Over time, these ties expand the limits of what's possible in certain situations.

Later on, we distributed CHALLENGE in Mike Brown's neighborhood. Many residents came out to have conversations with comrades about racist police and violence. I walked in to a conversation a fellow comrade was having with two women who knew Mike Brown. One woman started to cry, saying, "We

were afraid to leave our homes, my daughter wouldn't even come out to talk with anyone. We are afraid of being shot for nothing." Just like the communities in my hometown, or in Boston, Baltimore, and all over the U.S., workers are sick of being afraid, are tired of capitalist oppression, and fed up with racism. Ferguson has been an example and a learning experience for the Party and myself. Workers are poised for fightback not only in Ferguson, but all over the world. Multiracial unity is the cure to capitalism. We shouldn't have to live in fear! We should engage in militant action among mass organizations to smash the system. United with a communist vision, we workers will eliminate the disease of the ruling class!

★ ★ ★ ★

## Why I Quit the Israel CP

Why did I leave the Israeli "Communist" Party (Maki-Hadash) and join PLP?

The Israeli "Communist" Party, Maki-Hadash (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality), is a revisionist party with no ideological basis. It is a counter-revolutionary party and is old in multiple meanings of the word. It is no place for a 17-year-old revolutionary who is only at the very beginning of his revolutionary road.

Maki-Hadash itself is undergoing an internal ideological crisis- its members fighting each other and sensing that it will fall apart at any moment. Sometimes it feels that without its branch in the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) it would have ceased to exist a long time ago. It proposes unity with the other bourgeois Arab parties in order to get more votes and stay in the Knesset.

Two months ago, a fascist scumbag called Yoav "The Shadow" Eliasi (a racist and nationalist two-bit rapper who in the past organized thugs to beat up leftist demonstrators) decided to create a fascist militia to "patrol" southern Tel-Aviv, in order to attack the African refugees and Arabs who live there and publicly spread racist filth. So I organized a counter-group of youth to help protect the refugees, Arabs and other non-Jewish residents from racist attacks.

To this group I recruited several people from the Anarchist group "Unity," several independent Anarchist and Communist comrades, one Libertarian and several Maki-Hadash comrades. This enraged many Maki members so much that it was raised to the Central Committee where the subject was discussed and it was decided that I will be removed from the party because I "solicited party members to illegal activity" and gave a bad name to the party and its members. From this response you can see that this so-called "Marxist-Leninist" party is actually a revisionist counter-revolutionary party which believes in rotten parliamentary politics, rather than revolution.

Afterwards, PLP invited me to its convention in NYC. I was really impressed with the comrades in New York and I liked the activity and the ways of action. The thing I was most impressed with was the number of international comrades. I enjoyed seeing so many people of all ethnicities and languages working together, unlike in Maki where almost everyone is Ashkenasi (European Jewish).

I hope that PLP will continue to grow internationally and continue its good work. Onwards!

★ ★ ★ ★

## Fighting Anti-Communism

The September 16 issue of CHALLENGE attacked the EU Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism. It addressed how this event is designed to falsely equate communism with the horrors of fascism and also to cover up the hypocrisy of the Western capitalist rulers who appeased

Hitler as long as they felt he would go east and attack the Soviet Union. Western capitalists, like Henry Ford, did deals with Hitler backers Krupp and Farben before and during World War II, including selling the Nazis the unmarked poison gas used in the Holocaust genocide.

The article then jumps to an uncritical defense of the 1939 Non-Aggression Pact between Germany and the Soviet Union as a necessary step to buy time for the Soviet Union to prepare for the coming war with Hitlerism. Leaving aside the questionable argument that forcing the Nazis to go across the extra 300 miles of Polish territory to attack the Soviet Union played any significant role in the Nazis' defeat, this argument ignores the many devastating negative results of the Soviet policy (before and during WW II) of making deals with world capitalist rulers.

Starting in the middle 1930s, the Soviet communist leadership abandoned any reliance on the international working class to defend the Soviet Union and instead appealed to Western capitalists in an attempt to form a "united front" against the German fascists.

The Soviet-led Communist International (Comintern) advised Western communist parties to hold back from fighting for a workers' revolution, and even discouraged any sharp criticism of "liberal" capitalists in the U.S. and France other than pushing for a capitalist-Soviet alliance. Later on, during WW II, the CPUSA carried these reformist politics to the extreme of opposing a Black workers' strike against racism because it would "detract from the war effort!"

The 1939 non-aggression pact was a top-down Soviet zigzag maneuver between struggles for a united front with the Western capitalists. The article defended that pact without analyzing the devastating impact it had on the morale of the international working class.

In Brooklyn, New York at that time, the CPUSA had as many as 20,000 members, a high percentage of them impoverished Jewish workers. Several thousand resigned after the pact was signed to protest the new friendship of the Soviets with Nazi Germany. This loss of membership was never overcome in Brooklyn and other areas where there were a large concentration of Jewish members. During this period the Soviets were uncritical of Nazism in their press and instead attacked the Western imperialist nations of France, U.S., and Great Britain.

For many years, PLP has criticized the pact as an opportunist weakness that reflected Russian nationalism within the CPSU and a mistaken policy of uniting with one set of international bosses against another.

By arguing that the pact was crucial to defeating the Nazis, the article did a disservice to the millions of brave and resourceful communists who moved factories across the Urals and fought hand to hand at Stalingrad to defeat the fascist monsters. Millions of Soviet communists gave their lives in that struggle, along with millions of communist-led resistance fighters in countries all around the world.

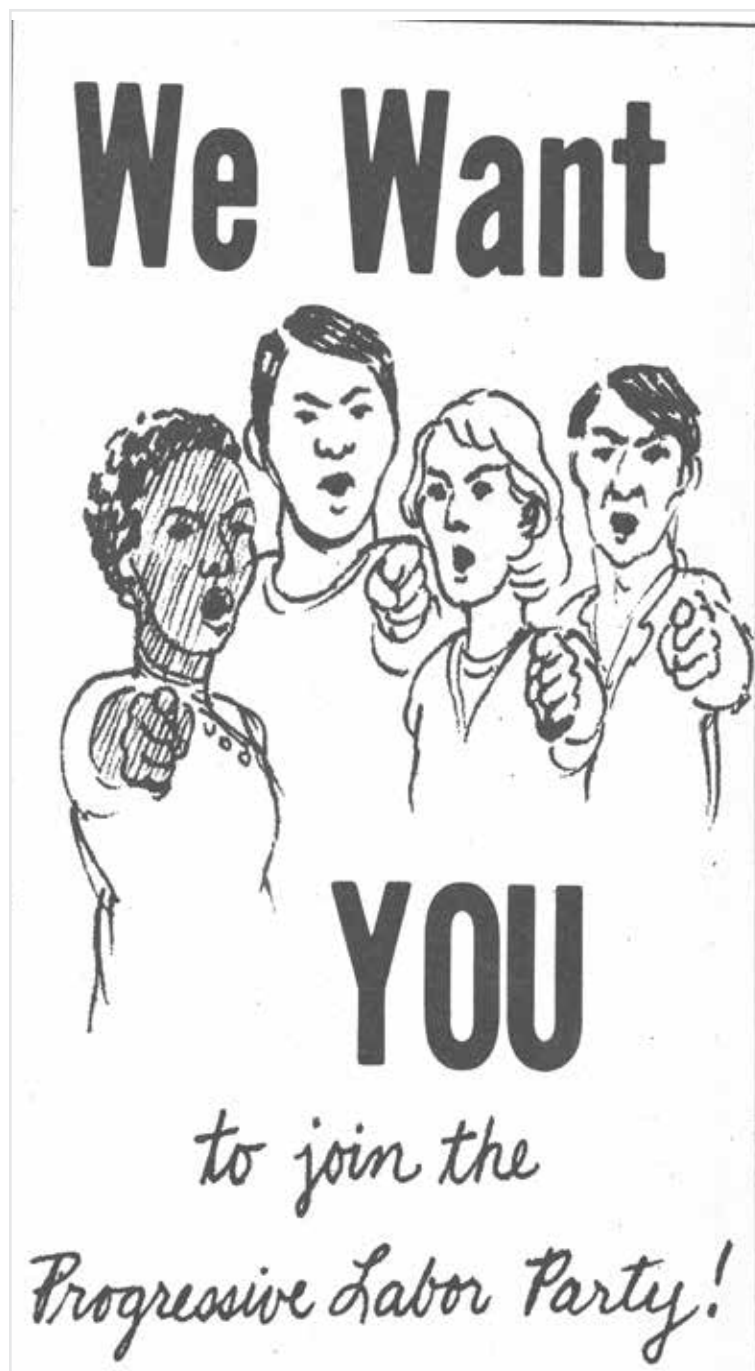
The Soviet communist leadership was the symbol for that heroic, successful struggle, but their reformist politics led to the temporary defeat of communists and the working class all around the world. Within ten years, capitalist forces seized state power back from the Soviet working class and communist parties (except for China) completely abandoned revolutionary struggle.

Soviet leaders relied on "Mother Russia" non-class nationalism and the development of a commandist bureaucracy within the Central Committee and Politburo. They restored the gold braid and privilege to the officer corps of the Red Army and privileges and pay differentials that undermined the role of the army as a people's militia per Paris Commune standards. Income inequality in the Soviet Union actually increased after World War II.

The Soviet's leadership role during and after World War II was too often based on pragmatism and not on communist principles. The Yalta agreement with Roosevelt and Churchill denied the opportunity for revolution by the Italian communist party, which was armed and ready for insurrection. Deals with one imperialist to oppose another always lead to disaster for revolutionary communism.

PLP has always opposed any alliances with "lesser"-evil bosses. We owe the working class a clear and sharp analysis of the dangers of those compromises, which this article did not provide.

★ ★ ★ ★



# Toby Schwartz: Communist for Life

continued from page 5

## Staunch Anti-Racist Organizer

As a professor, Toby continued to lead struggles to fight for a better world. In 1973, he helped found what later became the International Committee Against Racism (InCAR). In the late 1970s and 1980s, InCAR led a national movement against expansion efforts by the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazi Party. InCAR's message of "no free speech for racists — racism hurts all workers" was delivered to hundreds of thousands.

Toby helped to lead this important work throughout New England, meeting the violent tactics of the racists with organized and courageous action. When the KKK attempted to hold a cross burning in the remote rural town of Scotland, Connecticut, Toby led a mass multiracial march of hundreds of workers and students from three states. The demonstrators stopped many Klan sympathizers from attending the cross burning. Not surprisingly, Toby and his family's livelihood were threatened. Nevertheless, Toby and his wife Helen continued to dedicate their lives to fight for an egalitarian society without racism: communism.

In the 1980s, Toby recruited in the town of Willimantic and helped mount a series of anti-racist campaigns. This was a training ground for developing Party leaders, including a successful struggle to defend a young Puerto Rican man who was targeted for defending himself after a racist gang attack. When local politicians tried to turn a housing project into a gated fascist prison camp, PLP defied racist cops and led demon-

strations to defeat it. And when a leading government head publicly slandered Puerto Ricans, PLP's campaign exposed his racism and forced him out of office!

Toby's fighting nature helped him recover from a stroke in 1980. He remained active on the University of Connecticut (UConn) campus with InCAR and PLP, leading many a campus-wide anti-racist and anti-imperialist struggles. These struggles included preventing the UConn administration from closing the two schools on the main campus that had the largest number of women and nonwhite students, a fight to end the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative and other racist and pseudo-scientific research, and campus-wide opposition to U.S. imperialism in the Middle East.

## An Inspiration for Workers

Toby worked to solve problems collectively, rather than relying on charismatic individuals. He would often say, "We don't believe in the cult of personality. That's a losing strategy." At one campus InCAR meeting, a Black woman student and InCAR member stated, "Toby, you have taught me how it's important to not sit and watch these racist and sexist attacks happen. You taught all of us how to fight back. You also taught us that it's not enough to just fight racism, but that you have to fight capitalism. That's why I'm joining PLP"

Throughout his decades of struggle, Toby was happily married to the love of his life, Helen, until her death in 1999. Together they created a family, raising three children and five grandchildren. Their house was always a place for friends, neighbors, colleagues and family members to gather and share a meal, a glass of wine, and a good discussion of politics and life. They

created a household in which lively debate, friendship and compassion were the rule. Everyone was welcome at their table. Their ties created a web of friends across the country and worldwide.

Even in his declining years, Toby made deep connections at his assisted living home. Despite the ravages of dementia and heart disease, Toby lived life to the fullest, attending the opera and taking the train to visit old friends. He was always curious about the world. He and Helen built a library of thousands of books, often processing three or four simultaneously. He wanted to understand how the world worked as well as how people thought and interacted. Toby was a distinguished biophysicist, focused on the specifics of cell membrane transport, and noted for pointing out fundamental principles of thermodynamics.

The kind of fighter he was, and his love for life, became even more evident when Toby entered a hospice, but then fought to recover and return to the home. Then a second entrance to the hospice saw him once again recover to return home! He eventually died there in his sleep.

At his core, Toby believed in the capacity of all people to grow, learn and act, optimistic that our actions can and will create a communist world. Always on the side of the working class, Toby was a militant anti-racist fighter and proud communist, in the true spirit of the word. He never shirked from participating in and leading class struggle.

Toby will live on in all our struggles and in the lessons his life taught us. ☺



## RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

### Migrants in Nazi-style camps

NYT, 9/5 — In the Czech Republic, the police hustled more than 200 migrants off a train and wrote identification numbers on their hands with indelible markers...like the tattoos the Nazis put on concentration camp inmates....

"It was horrible when I saw those images of police putting numbers on people's arms," said...the chief rabbi of Hungary. "It reminded me of Auschwitz. And then putting them on a train with armed guards to take them to a camp where they are closed in?...There are echoes of the Holocaust...."

...Not since the Jews were rounded up by Nazi Germany have there been as many images coming out of Europe of people locked into trains, babies handed over barbed wire, men in military gear herding large crowds of bedraggled men, women and children.... Rabbi Frolich was especially struck by the lies used to manipulate the migrants.

"They tell them that the train was going to Austria and then take them to a camp instead....It is very similar to what happened to the Jews in the 1940s...."

"I cannot call them anything other than concentration camps," said... [the] coordinator for the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights...."These refugees arrive, in horrible condition, and then you put them in this concentration camp?"

### Clinton doubled \$2-a-day poverty

NYT Book Review, 9/6 — President Clinton signed the bill, called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), on August 22, 1996....

...Studies revealed that the number of "disconnected" single mothers — neither working nor on welfare — had grown substantially since the passage of TANF, rising to one in five single mothers during the mid-2000s....

...A University of Michigan expert on the Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation...analyzed the census data,...based on annual interviews with tens of thousands of American households, to determine the growth of the virtually cashless poor since welfare reform. His results were shocking. Since the passage of TANF in 1996, the number of families living in \$2-a-day poverty had more than doubled,

reaching 1.5 million households in early 2011.

### U.S. makes killer cluster bombs

NYT, 9/4 — Cluster bombs, the widely outlawed munitions that kill and maim indiscriminately, were used this year in five countries, none of which have... signed the treaty banning the weapons....

...117 countries...have joined the treaty....

The treaty prohibits all use of cluster munitions and sets deadlines for the destruction of stockpiles and the clearance of areas contaminated by unexploded cluster bomblets, which can be deadly if disturbed.

The United States, which has not signed the treaty, still produces and exports cluster munitions.

### U.S. general still runs Afghan war

NYT, 9/11 — Gen. John Campbell holds several titles: top NATO commander in Afghanistan [but]....

Lately Afghans...describe...yet another: minister of defense of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan....No other American commander...has had as much power within the Afghan military establishment and top government echelons....

...At a time when Afghan forces...are supposed to be running the war, and eight months after the official end of the NATO combat mission in Afghanistan, General Campbell's prominent role is...being widely taken as a sign that the fight against the Taliban is not going well...One Western diplomat...[said] "The American combat role may be over, but you still have an American general running the war...."

Afghan officials said...the Americans [have] greatly increased airstrikes...in crisis spots. "He is bossy and he doesn't even try to hide it," said an Afghan security official of General Campbell....

That role...has extended to taking part in day-to-day Afghan military decisions....

...He has advocated a long-term American presence and even an expanded one....

In recent weeks General Campbell has presided over one of the biggest American military interventions:...the heavy aerial bombardment of Musa Oala, after the Taliban took it from Afghan forces.

Officials...said that...bombs dropped there were so large that they obliterated entire buildings. "It was a big building...which...completely vanished from the earth, and buried everyone in it," said...a member of parliament....

Western and Afghan officials have described an

aggressive pattern of American strikes under General Campbell that has...seemed to outstrip the terms set in the security agreement between the United States and Afghanistan.

### Georgia: 'pay up or go to jail'

...In a small-town Georgia court...the...judge threaten[ed] to jail traffic violators who could not come up with an immediate payment toward their fines....

Judge...Diment...said to one defendant... "until you get \$300 here tonight, you won't be able to leave...."

To another defendant,...who...had been unemployed for two years...Judge Diment said. "You're going to have to figure out how to get this paid....Or you're going to go to jail....Neither defendant had a lawyer...."

...A lawyer with the Southern Center for Human Rights...has been fighting what it calls "debtor's prison" cases throughout Georgia....Judge Diment demanded immediate payments ranging from \$20 to more than \$1,000. One woman...has already spent a month in jail but was ordered to remain incarcerated until she made a \$500 payment....

In July, a man who...worked only a few days every other week asked to convert his court debt to community service. Judge Diment refused....

### Iraq: 'demolish what U.S. set up'

NYT, 9/1 — For five Fridays...thousands of mostly, but not entirely, youthful and secular Iraqis have gathered in central Baghdad...to demand change....

...The protests have evolved into a broader rebuke of the political establishment....

"The people are tired. Lack of services. Corruption. Electricity....The demonstrations represent a popular reckoning with the American legacy here, with the corrupt and dysfunctional political system that has been in place since United States forces invaded in 2003...."

...When the American bombs began falling, Mr. Abdulrahman said, "It was terrifying....They knocked out Saddam and brought a hundred Saddams."

His friend...said emphatically, "This protest was established to demolish what the Americans set up...."

... "The politicians..." Abdulsadr Aboud, 65, said... "stole our money....They didn't give a share of the oil to the people."

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

# POPE FRANCIS: KNEELING TO IMPERIALISM

Pope Francis, the fake “Peace Pope” and “Pope of the Poor,” kneels in thrall to U.S. finance capital—the world’s leading source of war, suffering, and racist exploitation. With the Catholic church facing steep declines in membership, child-abuse scandals and the loss of critical revenue, Pope Francis has been charged with forging an alliance with U.S. finance capital. To deceive Catholics and progressive workers in general, the pope is espousing left-sounding ideas, ranging from an indictment of capitalist inequality to a call to the rich and powerful to take action against climate change.

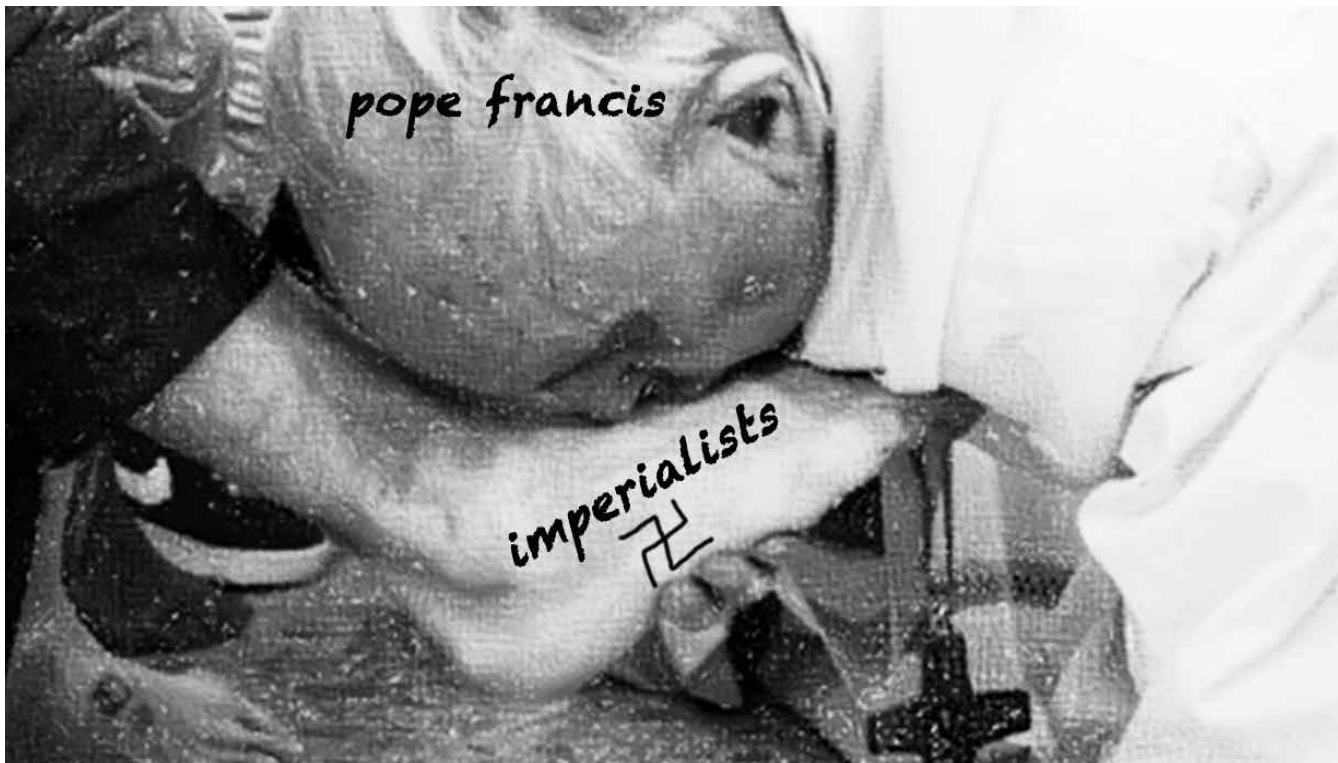
But don’t be fooled. The Pope is no friend of the poor—and certainly no enemy of the capitalist bosses. In fact, his liberalization campaign reflects the growing influence of U.S. finance capitalists—the dominant wing of the U.S. ruling class—within the church. By visiting the U.S., “His Holiness” hopes to steer Catholics and others toward backing the Democratic Party in 2016—the party that, at least for the moment, appears to be the bosses’ most reliable vehicle for expanding war and fascism. Francis’s job is to pacify workers who are disillusioned with capitalism and to restore their faith in reforming this rotten system.

This is nothing new. Going back to feudal times, the Catholic Church has used religion to promote and justify the agenda of the ruling class—along with its own vast business interests. Workers of the world need to see the Pope’s game for what it is: a charade to mislead workers and subvert revolutionary politics. Instead, workers need to channel their anger into support for the Progressive Labor Party, the only organization that can create revolutionary change. PLP fights for the total destruction of capitalism, not the phony cosmetic changes sought by the Pope.

The Catholic Church is in dire need of reform. In 2013, in response to a series of crooked Vatican bank deals and a declining membership base, the church replaced Benedict XVI—a German who’d joined the Hitler Youth—with the more liberal Francis. But this wasn’t enough to check the church’s downward spiral. Francis has been forced to close schools and churches across the U.S. to pay billions in settlements in child abuse cases. Now he’s turning to U.S. finance capital for help.

The Pope’s economic dealings reveal his priorities more clearly than his lofty words. In his effort to clean up the money-laundering Vatican Bank, he replaced Ernst von Freyburg, heir to a ship-building fortune from the Hitler era, with Jean-Baptiste de Franssu, a French-born executive at Invesco, a U.S. asset management firm. On June 25, even as he gave lip service to condemn the profit system’s greed, he blessed the heavy-weight imperialist leaders of the phony “Inclusive Capitalism” movement, including Bill Clinton, the British Rothschilds, JPMorgan Chase, Prince Charles, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Pope’s lead advisor on the current refugee crisis is ultra-capitalist Peter Sutherland. After granting Francis an audience in



June, Sutherland dictated the Pope’s bogus “humanitarian” stance, subsequently adopted by the capitalist rulers in Germany and other European nations as a means to discredit Russian bosses. Sutherland is the chairman of Goldman Sachs International and ex-chairman of British Petroleum. To protect their billions in profits, both Goldman and BP need the U.S. war machine to continue slaughtering workers in the Middle East.

On his U.S. tour, Francis is cheerleading for the Democrats and their campaign to keep hold of the White House. His position on global warming neatly dovetails with theirs, in contrast to the anti-science Republican deniers. Like Democratic hopefuls Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and Bernie Sanders, Francis backs Barack Obama’s Iran deal, which buys time for the U.S. bosses to build up for global war. The Boston Globe (9/13/15) foresees Francis making pro-Democrat inroads against the GOP on several levels:

*Conventional wisdom holds that the Democrats have the most to gain, given the pope’s expected focus on issues such as immigration and the fight against climate change. Moreover, given perceptions that the U.S. Church has been moving into a steadily tighter alliance with the Republicans, anything that cuts in a different direction arguably helps the opposition.*

So just where do the Pope’s big ideas come from?

*In an address during a meeting organized by the Foundation for Sustainable Development, the leader of the Roman Catholic*

*Church reminded key personalities from the fields of science, religion, politics, and economics that finding solutions to global warming is a matter of social justice, since “peoples, communities, men and women, are at risk” (Christian Today, 9/13/15).*

The Foundation has cashed fat checks from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund since 1996.

The pontiff’s other travels reflect similar U.S.-friendly politics. In July, Francis paid a call on Evo Morales, Bolivia’s “socialist” leader. As Britain’s liberal Guardian newspaper reported (10/14/14), Morales has “transformed Bolivia from an ‘economic basket case’ into a country that receives praise from such unlikely contenders as the World Bank and the IMF.” Both the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are controlled by U.S. finance capital; they were especially pleased when Morales lowered Bolivia’s legal working age to 10 years. The Pope is no friend of the working class.

As workers worldwide see more clearly that capitalism leads to mass poverty and imperialist war, the Catholic Church and the U.S. finance capitalist class are desperately looking for misleaders to stifle workers’ anger. Like his counterpart, Barack Obama, Pope Francis is the friendly face of this monstrous profit system. Only the destruction of capitalism — and its bosses, wars, racism, 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, PLP, can end capitalist atrocities and put cynical salesmen like Pope Francis out of business. ☸

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