

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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## ‘Million Man March’

# NO REVOLUTION, NO JUSTICE

**WASHINGTON, DC, October 10** —Tens of thousands of antiracists gathered at the twentieth anniversary of the Million Man March. As the Nation of Islam (NOI) misleaders pushed for dead-end nationalism and reform, a small but aggressive group of Progressive Labor Party members and friends rallied for a communist solution to racist oppression.

NOI’s strategy is Black capitalism, separatism, sexist oppression, pie-in-the-sky religion, and a blame-the-victims sales pitch. PLP’s strategy is to build a multiracial, working-class movement to smash capitalism and create an egalitarian society without bosses, money or profits.

### Shut It Down

Louis Farrakhan, NOI’s worker-bashing excuse for a leader, spoke for more than 145 minutes. He attacked women workers for having abortions and poor cooking skills; he attacked Black men for failing their families. Yet he gave the capitalist exploiters and warmaking imperialists a free pass. With a big enough crowd to seize the White House and spark rebellion, the 82-year-old Farrakhan—the snake who has admitted inciting the assassination of his former mentor, Malcolm X—could make only an empty call for “justice” through reform and god.

Fortunately, triumph is defined by more than numbers. Winning lies in the class content of the politics, which PLP had in abundance. We countered the NOI’s pacification strategy with our militant chanting: “This racist system — shut it down!” Surrounded by the masses, our multiracial group of women and men launched a rally within the rally. Most people were receptive to our politics, as evidenced by the 1,700 CHALLENGEs and leaflets we circulated over two hours.

The crowd’s response to our literature reflects the conclusion being drawn by workers across the world: The whole rotten system needs to go. Progressive Labor Party says YES, capitalism must



Masses of Black workers assemble against racism in Washington, DC and are greeted with bosses’ pacifism.

go. It cannot be reformed. Our brothers and sisters in Ferguson and Baltimore are helping to clue us in on the solution. We must turn these sparks of rebellion into a communist revolution—and a system free of racism, sexism, exploitation and imperialist war, run by and for workers and youth. Communism is the only system based on the needs of the international working class.

### Rebellion, Not Atonement

At the original Million Man March (MMM) in 1995, NOI declared a personal Day of Atonement for Black men—an exercise in racist victim-bashing. The organization’s leadership demanded that Black male workers apologize for living through slavery, racism and capitalism. In the wake of the mighty rebellions of Ferguson and Baltimore, NOI

began today’s MMM with a prayer. It culminated with a pathetic plea for “the government to respond to our suffering.”

The working class in Ferguson and Baltimore knows how the government responds to workers’ suffering: with tear gas, kkkops and military-grade weapons. Under capitalism, the capitalist bosses hold state power. They control the politicians, the judges and the cops. The system is rigged against the working class.

State power in the U.S. has always rested on racist murders. The thirteen colonies were built on the genocide of indigenous peoples. The U.S. economy boomed with the vicious enslavement of Black women, men, and children. The gross in-

*Continued on page 3*

## JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

★**EDITORIAL**  
Imperialist  
Rivalry Signals  
Bigger Wars  
*page 2*

★**CHICAGO**  
Culture is a  
Weapon  
*page 4*

★**KENYA**  
Teacher Strike  
Has No Borders  
*page 4*

★**TANZANIA**  
Crooked  
Candidates Bleed  
Workers Dry  
*page 5*

★**MEXICO**  
Communism Will  
Avenge  
Ayotzinapa  
*page 8*

OUR FIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

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

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

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Editorial

U.S., Russia Clash in Syria

Imperialist Rivalry Signals Bigger Wars

The recent airstrikes in Syria by Russian imperialists, their first military engagement outside the former Soviet Union since 1979, is a blow to U.S. influence worldwide and brings conflict between the two nuclear powers ever closer. To shore up Syria President Bashar al-Assad, a junior partner of the Russia-Iran alliance, President Vladimir Putin has deployed air and naval forces and is threatening to send in ground troops. In moving to expand its influence in the oil-rich Middle East, Russia is targeting U.S.-backed, anti-Assad rebels like the Free Syrian Army.

For the U.S. ruling class, stakes are high. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared that the U.S. would use military force as needed to defend "vital national interests" in the Persian Gulf. Thirty-five years later, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's national security adviser, is pushing for "strategic boldness" against Russia in Syria: "The U.S. has only one real option if it is to protect its wider stakes in the region: to convey to Moscow the demand that it cease and desist from military actions that directly affect American assets" (Financial Times, 10/4/15).

The U.S. bosses' fundamental problem is that Russia's bosses have an equal stake in the Middle East—and a far longer history of imperialist conquest in the region. It began in 1772, when forces under Catherine the Great "bombarded, stormed and captured Beirut, a fortress on the coast of Ottoman Syria...Catherine's successors saw themselves as crusaders, with Russia destined to rule Constantinople and Jerusalem" (New York Times, 10/9/15). Today, though Russia's regional influence nosedived after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Putin still banks heavily on Syria and its Mediterranean port of Tartus, Russia's only naval base beyond its borders.

Even as the Central Intelligence Agency funneled powerful anti-tank weapons to anti-Assad insurgents (NYT, 10/13/15), Barack Obama denied the U.S. rulers' need to confront Russia militarily: "We're not going to make Syria into a proxy war." Obama's blatant lie points to U.S. unpreparedness for the next broad global con-

flict; the bosses certainly are willing to kill millions of workers in the name of profit, but they aren't yet ready. At the moment, they face two obstacles: the resistance of smaller U.S. capitalists (represented by the Koch brothers and the Tea Party) to pay more taxes to support a major invasion, and mass working-class opposition to restoring a military draft.

Whether they live in the U.S. or Russia, in China or India or Pakistan, workers have no stake in inter-imperialist conflicts. Capitalist warfare turns workers into refugees, cannon fodder, or "collateral" civilian casualties—like the dozens of doctors, staff, and patients slaughtered October 3 by the U.S. Air Force bombing of a hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan. The communist Progressive Labor Party urges all workers to fight on the one side that will fight for them: the international working class.

Russia's Real Targets

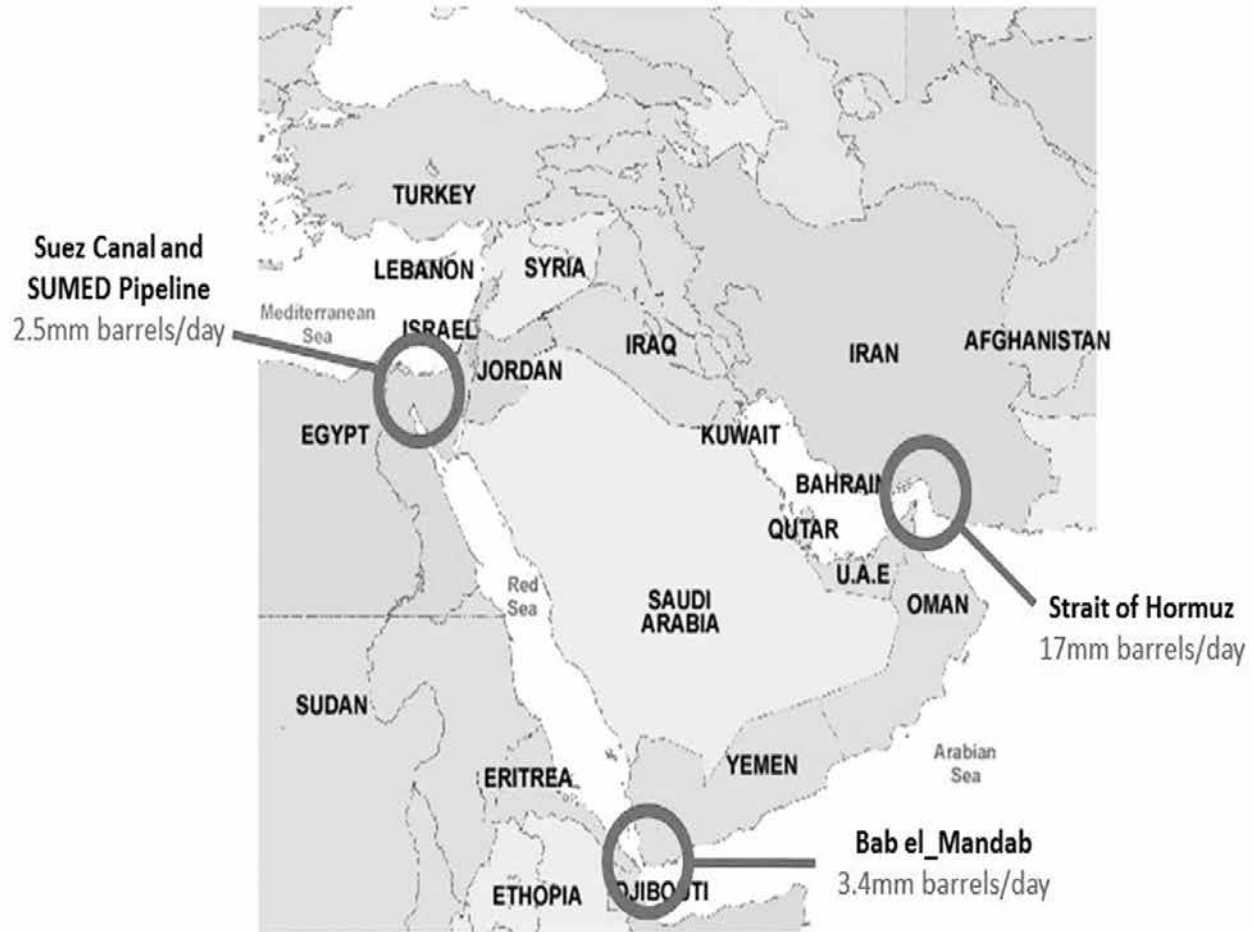
On October 8, the top think tank representing U.S. finance capital, the Council on Foreign Relations, analyzed Russia's ambitions: "The Russian Navy's initial firing of twenty-six cruise missiles from ships in the Caspian Sea into Syria yesterday generated little effect on the Syrian battlefield—but that may not be the primary objective" (CFR website). Author Sean Liedman, a Navy captain and CFR "military fellow," identified the real targets for this show of force:

*\*The international community*, which now sees clearly that the U.S. monopoly on long-range, precision-strike weapons is over.

*\*The U.S. ruling class*. The Russian bosses' show of high-tech force displayed their naval capability and the will to employ it, a clear challenge to their super-power rival.

*\*Europe and NATO*. Any fixed target in Europe can be struck by the Russian Navy, which has more freedom to maneuver than an equivalent ground force. Coming after the annexation of Crimea and the Rus-

Continued on page 7



Source: Energy Information Association Data as-of 2011





# Seattle Anti-Racists Strike Back

Last month's Seattle teachers' strike, the first in the city's schools in 30 years, marked a qualitative advance in efforts to build militant anti-racism in a 5,000-member union. Years of struggle by the Social Equality Educators (SEE) caucus paid off in making the five-day work stoppage more politically effective—and a foundation for building a fighting, anti-racist organization for years to come.

In Seattle as elsewhere, public schools have been under sustained attack. Billionaires are raiding what remains in the public coffers as the capitalist ruling class attempts to centralize control of education. In Washington state, the fiasco of school funding was laid bare by a state Supreme Court ruling that held the Legislature in contempt for failing to fully fund basic education. Educators reached their breaking point, and the strike was the result.

But as subsequent events made clear, reform politics in the current period is a game rigged by the capitalist bosses and their allies in union leadership. Despite a unanimous strike vote by the rank and file, the union's executive board and representative assembly were authorized to suspend the strike on their own, with the general membership having no real say.

Nonetheless, we achieved some success. A 40-member bargaining team fought for guaranteed recess time, the requirement of "Race and Equity Teams" at each school, and the removal of test scores from teacher evaluations. These demands generated broad public support. We strengthened our position by defying union leadership and organizing 200 educators in our zone to march five miles to the district headquarters. The march pressured the union leadership and sent a message to the bargaining team to hold the line and stop submitting weak counter-proposals. This action built unprecedented solidarity in our ranks, and a tentative agreement was reached that night.

In the end, we won 30 minutes per day of guaranteed recess for all schools—a rebuff to administrators in low-income, majority Black

and Latin neighborhoods, where recess had been cut to as little as 15 minutes in a fool's errand to increase test scores. We won the establishment of Race and Equity Teams in 30 percent of schools, a wedge for teachers to expose racism and build anti-racist practices. While we'll never get rid of racism in the schools under capitalism, we can use these teams to develop more people into anti-racist fighters. Finally, we won the fight to eliminate test scores from teacher evaluations, a major blow to the capitalists' national education reform movement.

## Capitalist Schools Bound to Fail

These concrete achievements are important. But we should be clear that the strike's main victory was to develop consciousness among educators as participants in class struggle, however unevenly. Of course, illusions persist. As many see it, the next step in this struggle is to force the hand of the State Legislature, possibly through statewide strikes, to reform the tax structure for education funding. This strategy fails to address the reality that capitalist education will never serve the needs of the working class. Even if the state "fully" funds education, by the bosses' standards, we will still be stuck with the general crisis of global capitalism and the particular crisis of U.S. imperialism. We will still face attacks from a ruling class demanding that workers do more for less. Our students will still face a future of racist police terror, mass unemployment, and forced recruitment into the next global imperialist war.

But to the extent that we can continue to develop working-class consciousness and workers' confidence in their collective power, we will have taken another step forward. Now we have to mount more mass struggles to demonstrate that capitalism is not a system that can be reformed. It must be replaced by communism, a system that will transform education to meet the needs of all students—and the anti-racist, anti-sexist society they will help to build.✪

# Chicago PL: Culture is a Weapon

**CHICAGO, October 3** — "This is what a communist society will look like!" remarked one comrade after observing our international and multi-generational, working-class gathering. The occasion was our city collective's second annual October Revolution Celebration Dinner, hosted at a banquet hall on Chicago's south side. More than fifty comrades and friends, hailing from Oakland, Guyana, Mexico and the Philippines, came together.

After everyone had eaten their fill of international cuisine, the program kicked off with a fiery speech from a comrade who blasted the racist and sexist failures of capitalism and emphasized the need to organize for communist revolution. Next came an interactive, bilingual presentation that summarized the history of the first days of the Russian Revolution, and also highlighted past and present struggles of Progressive Labor Party's first fifty

years. Communist songs were sung, and the evening wrapped up with dancing.

Having a DJ made the event livelier, but a number of comrades were upset that some of the songs played contained openly sexist language. This underlined the importance of infusing culture with communist, egalitarian ideas and replacing abusive and degrading themes with powerful, pro-working-class messages. Cultural events are just some of the many steps needed to build the class struggle to the level achieved by the Russian and Chinese revolutionaries. They wielded working-class culture as a powerful weapon in the fight to violently overthrow the rotten capitalist class and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat. We're committed to making this event twice as big next year, and to win more workers to the Party and the fight for a communist world!✪

# Kenya Teachers' Strike: Struggle Has No Borders



Kenya teachers on strike! One of the slogans was "No Cheque, No Chalk" (no paycheck, no teaching)

Students and teachers in Kenya are squarely facing the crises of global capitalism and U.S. imperialism. In September, at the same time as the teachers' strike in Seattle, public educators across Kenya waged a five-week strike against the national Teachers Service Commission (TSC). The strike was launched by the two national teachers' unions in response to the government's failure to follow through on promised pay increases of 50 to 60 percent, as ordered by Kenya's Supreme Court. According to the Nairobi-based Daily Nation, schools were "paralyzed" in most of the country as striking teachers "stormed" schools where teachers had scabbed (9/8/15). University students supported the strike, and the striking public school teachers built solidarity with non-unionized private school teachers.

Kenya's capitalist bosses are simultaneously flirting with two imperialist powers, the U.S. and rising China, with workers and students caught in between. Weeks before the teachers' strikes, in an attempt to ward off Kenya's growing alliance with Chinese imperialism, President Barack Obama signed \$1 billion in trade, oil pipeline and technology deals in Nairobi. As the New York Times noted (7/24/15), trade with China has blossomed to \$222 billion, three times the country's business with the U.S. Meanwhile, China and Kenya are jointly funding a new East Africa railway network to connect Kenya with Chinese interests in South Sudan, Uganda and elsewhere.

As the Daily Nation noted, however: "Billions of shillings in terms of teachers' salaries, students' school fees, et cetera... were put on hold...You cannot build a new railway line worth more than Sh300 billion [Kenyan shillings, equivalent to about \$3 billion U.S.] and fail to raise a comparatively paltry Sh16 billion to pay teachers" (10/11/15).

Teachers in both the U.S. and Kenya have a world to win if they can succeed in uniting their common struggle against capitalism with workers throughout the world. The education struggle knows no borders, and neither does the international revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party! As we fight for education for our youth, our task ahead is to sharpen the militancy of our struggle here and keep connecting our struggle to our class sisters and brothers around the world. We fight for a communist world, where all workers can fulfill their maximum potential after money and borders are smashed.

CHALLENGE readers should share this article with other teachers and students, raise this struggle in their parent-teacher associations and unions, and join PLP to build a movement to fight back!✪





# Tanzania: Crooked Candidates Bleed Workers Dry

With an election set for October 25, Tanzania is in the throes of electing its fifth president. The naked corruption of national politics shows how quickly the bosses can steal back whatever crumbs they've thrown at the working class. The working class of Tanzania could meet all of its needs—if it weren't for capitalism.

Since Tanzania's multi-party system was established in 1992, the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM, or "Party of the Revolution"), has stood openly for capitalism. The CCM descends from the incorrect line of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), whose platform called for "ujamaa," or "African socialism." For all these years, workers voted the CCM in, believing that their leadership would benefit the masses. But throughout the government, politicians have enriched themselves at the expense of the working class.

For decades, leaders from opposition parties appealed to the masses by exposing the corruption of CCM. Events leading up to this year's election, however, show clearly that electoral politics and allying with the bosses is a lose-lose scenario for workers.

**Opposition Parties Are Still Capitalist Parties—**Four opposition parties (Chadema, Civic United Front, NCCR-Mageuzi and National League for Democracy) have agreed to get behind one candidate in the hope of defeating CCM. This united front chose former Tanzanian Prime Minister Edward Ngoyai Lowassa as their candidate. In 2008, Lowassa was forced to resign from his position due to the "Richmond Scandal." During his time as

prime minister, he contracted with a fake company to provide electricity to Tanzania at the outrageous price of \$72,380 per day! After convincing Parliament to bless the deal, Lowassa became an extremely wealthy man from the kickbacks. Meanwhile, the vast majority of households and schools lack electricity to this day.

Other "honorable" politicians (the title placed before the name of Tanzanian government officials as a mark of "ethical and credible behavior"), including current President Jakaya Kikwete, were also implicated in the scandal. All of these capitalist servants have contributed mightily to the misery of the masses who earn less than one dollar a day.

Last July, even though Lowassa's crimes against the working class had been exposed for all to see, the new coalition of four opposition parties (UKAWA) chose him to run against the ruling party. Then CCM declared John Magafuli, the party's former minister for public works, as their choice. He, too, has committed crimes against the working class. He privatized the nation's public housing and sold buildings to his friends at low prices, even giving one to his fiancée as a gift! Within days of CCM's announcement, Lowassa switched over to the opposition coalition and bought or coerced his way to become its candidate. The bosses' elections are a farce!

PLP: Revolution in Actions and Words

Workers have long been seeking a true revolutionary movement. They have been sharply posing questions like: "What is revolution?" "Why revolution?" "Are the opposition parties capable

of fighting for revolution?" "Can corrupt leaders grow to be wise, change sides, and fight for the working class?"

Chadema, one of the opposition parties, has captured the interest of Tanzania's youth, who are angry and disaffected by government corruption, poor education and lack of jobs. But with Lowassa running for the opposition, many youth and workers are coming to understand that the electoral system cannot lead to meaningful change.

The only way for workers in Tanzania, and worldwide, to move in a revolutionary direction is to reject the idea that "leadership" comes from anywhere but themselves. The working class must reject the entire capitalist system, as well as its election circuses, and join the Progressive Labor Party to fight for communist revolution. The working class, not the capitalist politicians or other ruling-class stooges, will lead the way to create communal ownership of the world's resources and production. PLP fights for a communist world, where the working class collectively rules to abolish sexism, racism, borders, inequalities, and all forms of exploitation and classes worldwide.

Dear brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers of the world! It is quite true that corruption, sexism, racism and class divisions are the products of the capitalist ruling system. The only way to end this state of affairs is to build a mass international PLP and make a world communist revolution.

Let the working masses join hands together to build a fair and classless world through communist revolution!✊

## "West Wednesdays" Build Fightback Against Kkkops

**BALTIMORE, October 7**—A multiracial group of more than 40 protesters rallied against racist police brutality in front of Central Booking in downtown Baltimore today. This was the 115th consecutive "West Wednesday" decrying the 2013 murder of Tyrone West by Baltimore cops after a routine traffic stop. One young activist, seasoned by the rebellion sparked by Freddie Gray's murder here in April, gave a stirring speech about the need to organize against police terror.

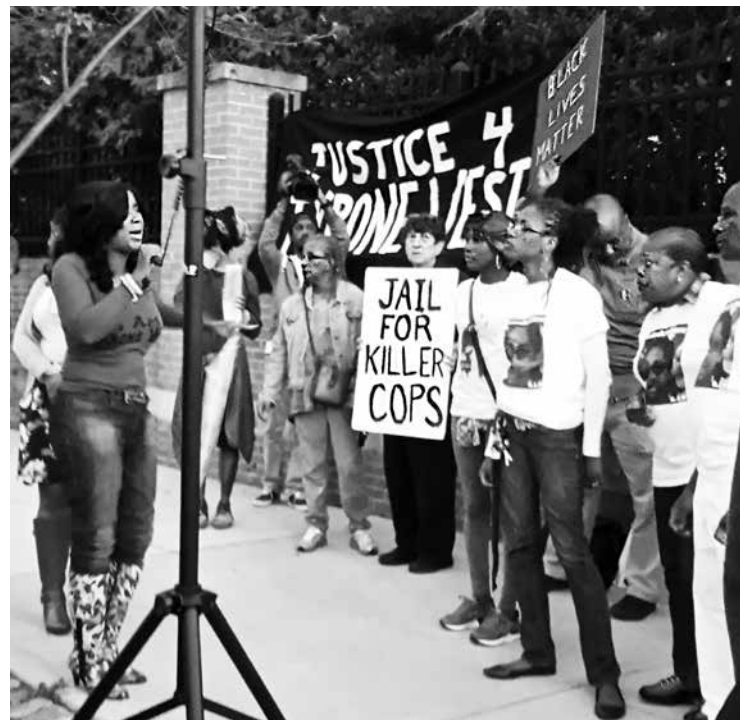
Even as darkness fell, passing drivers kept honking their horns in support of demonstrators' signs. Twenty copies of CHALLENGE, including coverage of previous "West Wednesday" rallies and the Freddie Gray rebellion, were distributed to protesters. The Progressive Labor Party is advancing our analysis that abuse by authorities is a necessary part of capitalism. Police brutality intimidates workers in general. In particular, it discourages Black workers, the most militant section of the working class, from fighting back against this racist, oppressive system built on exploitation and imperialist war.

Today's rally marked an expansion of the struggle, with two more recently victimized families joining the protest. The family of Darrell Murray, who died suspiciously in a Cumberland, Maryland jail, called for continued vocal opposition against police brutality and condemned the failure of the district attorney to prosecute brutal officers and guards. Darrell's sister Shawna, an activist with Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, noted that deaths inside jails routinely go unreported. She called for independent investigations of these deaths, not the standard prison cover-ups. She also noted that correctional officers in the Western Maryland facilities are known to belong

to racist groups and target Black and Latin inmates. Darrell Murray had a reputation for calling out guards when they abused inmates' rights. He had told his family that he feared for his life because he refused to keep quiet. His fear was evidently justified.

Kelly Holsey, the girlfriend of Keith Davis—chased by police into a garage and barraged with bullets despite being unarmed—spoke poignantly of his fight for life. Just three minutes away from a hospital, Davis was left bleeding on the ground for more than 40 minutes. After undergoing several operations to repair the bullet damage, he remains in jail, where guards keep him in line by depriving him of his medicine. Kelly told the crowd that Davis's shooting was a wake-up call. She said she would no longer remain silent about the murder of Freddie Gray, Keith's unwarranted shooting, and the scourge of police brutality. Chants calling for justice for all victims of cop violence brutality rang out as the rally ended and planning began for the next action.

The following Saturday, October 10, PLers continued to spread the word about the West Wednesday struggles at the "Justice or Else!" rally in DC on the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March. We distributed hundreds of flyers and CHALLENGEs with stories about this ongoing battle. We challenged people to think about what "justice" means within a system of equality and



state terror, and what the Black capitalist Nation of Islam means by "or else." Justice is not possible under capitalism. Whenever kkkops murder someone, they are simply doing their job: serving the capitalist class by intimidating workers. Even on those rare occasions when a cop is indicted, justice cannot be served; there will inevitably be more racism, killings and mass poverty. Only a communist revolution can eliminate profits and exploitation, the basis for brutality and racism. Only a revolution can deliver justice to victims of police brutality, their families, and the international working class.✊

# LETTERS

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

### Serve Our Students: Organize

I have always loved working with students and have understood that education is a battleground for anti-racism, anti-sexism and other communist ideologies. After all, the classroom is one of the first places where people learn capitalist thinking. Therefore, I thought City Year, an AmeriCorps education program, would be a great way to spend a year. They send teams of about ten young people to under-resourced schools to provide support in math, English, behavior, attendance and after-school programs.

What seemed like an excellent opportunity to work with kids has turned out to be far different. We work nearly 11-hour days, five days a week, without most government holidays. Only half of this time is spent with students. We are not paid a wage, but a monthly stipend of \$1000, which is so low that we are expected to apply for food stamps to help make ends meet. This program is great for the education bosses, because rather than hiring full-time teachers who can get benefits and a salary, they can bring in a team of temporary labor.

What has been wearing us down is not even this exploitation. It is what many call the CULTure. City Year enforces a culture of obedience to authority. They exert control of our actions and thoughts through the kind of discourse we are allowed to engage in. It's like something out of George Orwell's dystopian novel, 1984!

We have relatively no say in who, what or how we teach. We are also subjected to childish time-wasting activities every day. We are treated as juvenile, unimportant and disposable. Some people at the job say that City Year seems more concerned with brand recognition than actually helping students or workers. It is degrading. So many people have quit that some schools are down half their workforce, forcing those remaining to fill in the gaps by increasing the workload of each member.

As bad as it is for the City Year workers, the mainly Black, Latin, and immigrant students are always hurt the most. Every time someone quits, students lose an extra support. Even if workers don't quit prematurely, these City Year workers have merely three weeks of bogus training and are only there for one year. The high turnover rate and the one-year commitment mean that students lose out on having teachers who gain experience and build strong relationships with them.

Moreover, City Year makes a conscious effort to recruit Black and Latin people who come from the neighborhoods they serve. This builds a blame-the-victim philosophy: "I worked hard and made it

out of poverty; you can, too."

Programs like City Year hurt workers and students. They will never fix what City Year calls the "drop-out crisis." It is just another way to keep young people busy and make them feel like they are contributing to society. It is just another way to keep people from fighting back. I hope to win co-workers to this outlook and build for what is really going to serve students best: a communist revolution.

★★★★★

### Smash Borders: Embassies First!

The world capitalist countries set up their embassies to maintain their capitalist relations. A U.S. embassy in East Africa is one of the good example that shows how capitalist countries maintain their capitalist relations.

I went to the embassy for visa service but what I observed from the embassy is totally a capitalist business similar to selling drugs. The embassy charges 160 USD per visa! In the embassy, these mostly Black people who could afford the charge asked irrelevant questions so as to demoralize them and anger them. The counselor uses this as a technique of disqualifying workers from getting visa. And so, they have to make a second payment for the visa application.

In this embassy, more than 70 are called for visa interviews per day and more are disqualified to get the visa. These embassies are open for business, not for the "public service." The inhumane people full of capitalist spirit, these racists and sexists who call themselves counselors, give this oppressive kind of public office service to people. These kinds of inequalities in the offices will continue until we have a global communist revolution that will result in a world communist government.

It is only through communist revolution that we will end the existence of capitalist embassies. There will be no more borders!

★★★★★



## Airline Workers Throttle Bosses

**PARIS, October 12** — French airline workers proved last week that they won't take the capitalist rulers' cuts "flying down." In defiance of union misleaders, several hundred workers raided the Air France-KLM headquarters, broke up the Central Works Council meeting and forced the company's top executives to flee and clamber over a chain-link fence. Two senior execs had their suit jackets and shirts ripped off their backs.

The company provoked workers' rage by announcing it would eliminate nearly three thousand workers, including pilots, ground crew and flight attendants, and require pilots who kept their jobs to fly 100 hours a year extra with no pay. Whenever capitalist competition cuts into profits, the bosses aim to make workers pay the price.

Air France is also notoriously racist. In 2014, the company marketed their long-haul flights to Asia with an ad campaign featuring white women in yellow-face makeup. More recently, it was revealed that companies chartering planes from Air France could choose the skin color of its cabin crew personnel from a group of 1,166 workers classified as African, Caribbean, Asian, Eurasian, Indian or Western (Le Canard Enchaîné, 10/7/15).

Meanwhile, most union leaders condemned the workers' attacks on the bosses as "acts of aggression." Pro-boss union delegates were thanked by an airline director for helping him flee the hall. These class trai-

tors try to pacify the rank-and-file by calling one- and two-day "strikes." About half of the dozen rival unions at Air France have called a "day of action," a weasel-word expression that allows "moderate" unions to ask off-duty workers to demonstrate, while more "radical" unions try to organize a walkout. The phony strike failedn—not a single flight had to be cancelled!

Air France is not alone in trying to solve the bosses' economic problems on the workers' backs. Lufthansa, the German airline, has had several strikes over the past two years over plans to cut jobs and base crews in countries with lower wage and working conditions. SAS and Norwegian have seen work stoppages this year over staffing and pay, while baggage handlers in Spain have struck Ryanair for months. In both France and Spain, air traffic controllers have struck over job security and wages.

Once again, the French Socialist government revealed its pro-capitalist colors by aggressively pursuing those who attacked the bosses; five workers were hauled in for questioning on October 12. After the French presidential elections next April, Air France plans to axe another five thousand jobs. The current cuts are intended to soften up workers before that knockout punch.

Airline workers need to take the throttle away from their pro-boss union leaders and wage an all-out fight against the cut-backs, and against the capitalist system that demands them.✪



This boss got a taste of the airline workers' anger. As PLP grows, the bosses will have a lot more than torn shirts to worry about.

# Obama's Africa Strategy: Divide and Exploit

When U.S. President Barack Obama traveled to Kenya and Ethiopia this summer, capitalist rulers in both Africa and the U.S. worked overtime to foster illusions about the trip. The chair of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, called it a “historic visit” and a “concrete step to broaden and deepen the relationship between the U.S. and the AU.” The bosses’ media focused on future benefits promised by Obama: a joint campaign against terrorism, shared technology, and the alleviation of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, where one in three people are undernourished and more than 250 million live without access to clean water (borgenproject.com).

But Obama’s true mission was hidden. His real job was to counter recent inroads in Africa by Chinese bosses, and to pave the way for more U.S. capitalist investment—and more exploitation of African workers. Of particular interest to the U.S. rulers: gas extraction in Tanzania’s Mtwara region, oil production and power supply, and an expanding market for U.S. industrial goods, including firearms to warring ethnic groups.

Addressing the African Union, Obama said the U.S. planned to provide an additional 30,000 megawatts to 60 million households and business in Africa. He also pledged to assist African governments to eradi-

cate terrorism—a point of rank hypocrisy, since up to half of U.S. arms sales to corrupt militaries in Uganda and Burundi have wound up in the hands of the al-Shabab terror group (wired.com, 8/2/11).

Obama, who serves the main finance capital wing of the U.S. ruling class, pushed both Kenya and Ethiopia to enter the fight against al-Shabab. In fact, the U.S. government has played a concealed but significant role in arming groups like al-Shabab, Al Qaeda and Boko Haram. The capitalists’ strategy is to divide populations into ethnic groups and promote conflict and civil war, making the working class more vulnerable to imperialist exploitation. It’s no accident that U.S. government aid is funneled to countries with productive oil reserves, like Libya, Egypt and Sudan, or to areas in Tanzania where natural gas and coal as well as oil have been discovered. To shore up its control of these markets, U.S. imperialism invaded Libya and backed the forces that assassinated President Muammar Gaddafi.

African workers cannot rely on the African Union and its ruling-class governments, all of which profit from racism, sexism, and capitalist inequality. Only a communist revolution can eliminate mass poverty and establish a society that serves workers’ needs!🇵🇸

# Imperialists Clash in Syria

*Continued from page 2*

sian rulers’ backing of the separatist rebellion in Ukraine, the attack in Syria signals a growing threat to retake former Soviet states—including current NATO members that the U.S. has vowed to defend by force.

*\*The working class in Russia.* Russian bosses have long used grandiose displays of military might to build reactionary nationalist fervor—and to distract workers from a failing state capitalist economy.

## Choking Off Saudi Oil?

Oil Price, an industry insider journal, outlined Moscow’s designs on Persian Gulf energy supplies, the grand prize for global capitalism: “Putin’s moves in the Middle East could ...enhance the attractiveness of Russian crude and natural gas supplies” (10/4/15). Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states, the U.S. rulers’ main allies in the region, depend on one of three routes through the Persian Gulf or the Red Sea to ship their oil and liquefied natural gas. All three routes contain a “choke point”: the Suez Canal, the Mandeb Strait, or the Strait of Hormuz. Moreover, the Russian military says it is now flying up to 30 sorties a day from its new airstrip in Latakia, Syria’s main port on the Mediterranean (New York Times, 10/12/15). By adding a forward airbase to its

existing naval presence, Russia—in concert with Iran, the Assad regime in Syria, and possibly Iraq—could gain the capability to disrupt shipments from both Persian Gulf and Red Sea terminals.

U.S. rulers face an uphill battle to mobilize the support they need to take on Russia militarily. Their own ranks are in chaos. As the Republican Party flounders to find a new Speaker for the House of Representatives, Obama’s Democrats are divided over the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement designed to counter China’s expanding influence along the Pacific Rim. Meanwhile, disaffected U.S. workers will not easily be won to accept a new draft, an essential element for the next major ground war.

Workers should be aware, however, that U.S. rulers and their competitors will use any means necessary to build their imperialist agendas. Racism, sexism and nationalism are among their main weapons as they battle over the world’s resources. But the bosses’ battles are not ours. The only cause worth fighting for is a revolutionary communist society, led by PLP, to smash war, imperialism, racism and sexism. Join us!🇵🇸

## RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

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

### Catholic church: drill, baby, drill

Metro.us, New York, 9/23 — Claiming that the fight against climate change is an urgent moral duty, Pope Francis...urged the world to phase out fossil fuels. Yet in the heart of U.S. oil country, several dioceses and other Catholic institutions are leasing out drilling rights to oil and gas companies. In Oklahoma City, church officials have signed three new oil and gas leases since Francis’ public statement on the environment....

Oklahoma and Texas have been in the forefront of [the] boom in energy production, often through the controversial hydraulic fracturing production known as fracking....A spokesman for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, said the diocese had received \$31,661 from its leases so far in fiscal year 2015....

Church authorities receive [a] royalty ranging from 15 to 25 percent of the value of what is taken out of the ground....

Oklahoma City Archbishop Paul Coakley signed the most recent deal...giving privately held oil company Comanche Resources rights to operate on 100 acres in Major County in exchange for 18.75 percent of the value of the oil and gas produced....

### JFK backed genocide in Indonesia

NYT, 9/30 — This week marks the 50th anniversary of the...mass slaughter in Indonesia. With American support, more than 500,000 people were murdered by the Indonesian Army and its...death squads. At least 750,000 more were tortured and sent to concentration camps.

The victims were...members of the Communist Party... [and] all likely opponents of the new military regime of Suharto....[The] perpetrators still hold power....

[Joshua Oppenheimer, documentary film maker]...spent 12 years investigating the...genocide....I

felt I had wandered into Germany 40 years after the Holocaust, only to find the Nazis still in power....

...A state of paramilitaries and intelligence agencies...together with its business partners...loots the national wealth....

...A 1962 meeting between United States and British officials result[ed] in the decision to “liquidate” President Sukarno, the populist...founding father of Indonesia. Washington wanted to replace him with someone more deferential to Western strategic and commercial interests.

When genocide broke out, Washington provided equipment, weapons and money — as well as lists with thousands of names of public figures likely to oppose the new regime...expecting they would be killed. Billions of dollars in aid to Suharto’s dictatorship began flowing while corpses still clogged Indonesia’s rivers. The American media celebrated Sukarno’s...campaign of death. Time magazine called it the “best news for years in Asia.”

### GM kills for profit

NYT, 9/20 — With tough talk that its actions belie, the [U.S.] Justice Department announced...that it was bringing criminal charges against General Motors for “concealing a potentially deadly safety defect” and “misleading consumers regarding the safety” of GM vehicles, which caused or contributed to at least 124 deaths....

GM admitted it knew as early as 2004 that many of its vehicles contained defective ignition switches — and...had concluded by 2012 that the defective switches could cause airbags to fail. Yet GM did not recall the 2.6 million affected vehicles until nearly two years later and instead hid the fatal safety defects to increase sales....

All charges against GM will be dropped...and no company officials have been charged with crimes based on GM’s deadly concealment scheme....

...The United States attorney...insisted that GM deserved credit for its “fairly extraordinary” coopera-

tion....

...In case after case...the Justice Department has treated the worst corporate criminals like first-time drug offenders, agreeing to dismiss or not bring charges if the companies clean up their acts.

### How the FBI frames innocent people

The New Yorker, 9/21 — Joseph (the Animal) Barboza was a murderer for hire... [and] ultimately confessed to seven murders....

Barboza became a prized informant: he served as a [U.S.] government witness....When authorities began looking into a 1965 murder that Barboza had participated in, his contacts at the FBI engineered a scheme to protect him. Barboza was never prosecuted...instead, he took the stand as the government’s star witness and implicated four innocent men in the murder. His FBI handler...boasted...about the ease with which the bureau had set up four “pigeons” for a crime they did not commit. All four men ended up with life sentences. (They were cleared of the murder in 2001, by which time two of them had died in prison.)

### Obama’s ‘collateral damage’ kills dozens at Afghan hospital

NYT, 10/5 — ...The deadly American air strike on the hospital in Kundez, Afghanistan, run by Doctors Without Borders, killed 22 people....[A] Pentagon statement...[said] the strike may have caused “collateral damage”....

General Campbell said that Afghan forces fighting to retake Kundez....called the Americans for help.... Initial reports...suggested that American reports were threatened...prompting him ...to describe the strike as “justified....”

Officials with Doctors Without Borders said...Washington and Kabul were explicitly informed in advance of the hospital’s GPS coordinates.



# COMMUNISM WILL AVENGE AYOTZINAPA

**MEXICO CITY, October 14—**

The liberal capitalist bosses and their capitalist-controlled media have been spreading their version of last year's disappearance of the 43 activist students in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, blaming the "incompetence" of the government of president Enrique Peña Nieto.

But this outrage is not about official incompetence or the brazen corruption of the "justice" institutions. The lack of punishment for the guilty in Ayotzinapa is evidence of the rise of fascism in México. Fascism is reflected in the capitalists' intensification of racist and sexist violence against the working class. The disappearance of these youth is a racist crime, showing nothing but contempt for the lives of oppressed youth across Mexico!

Why don't the judicial system, the president and the Mexican Congress give us any answers? Because they need to contain and criminalize workers' protests, which are in response to our super-exploitation. This criminalization coerces the working class into accepting fascist conditions during this period of capitalist crisis.

### Liberal Bosses Pave Road to Fascism

The main weapon the bosses in Mexico are using to contain working-class anger is liberalism. Liberal bosses are capitalists who pretend to be pro-working class. They are calling for citizens to participate within the framework of institutions based on capitalist ideology, like the National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH) or the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH). As a result of being won to trust in these institutions, the working class organizes itself in a "well-behaved" way that doesn't fundamentally threaten capitalism. Liberal capitalist bosses and the institutions around them serve an important role in capitalism. They lead



Ayotzinapa lives and the struggle continues

the working class away from international class consciousness and from questioning the profit system that lies at the root of the disappearances in Ayotzinapa.

The liberal bosses won't acknowledge that the 43 students were murdered by capitalist violence. Along with racism and extreme mass poverty, state terror is a clear sign of the rise of fascism here.

The poverty generated by the capitalist system provides the rulers with young people who have no choice but to work under conditions of legalized super-exploitation. Other young people, who lack access to these terrible jobs, are pushed into "illegal" capitalist industries of drug trafficking and organized crime. The students of Ayotzinapa refused to be used by this brutal and fascist capitalist system, and that's why they were disappeared.

Avenge by Smashing the Bosses and Their Ideas

In the capitalist system under which we live, there's no justice for workers. The laws and the entire "justice" system are designed to protect private property and the capitalists' profits. The right of the bosses to enrich themselves requires that the working class—and especially the youth—be controlled both ideologically and through force. In Ayotzinapa, the bosses' state acted according to the interests it serves. Workers cannot rely on this state to resolve our problems.

The anger and pain of the parents of the disappeared, and of all of us who have stood by them in México and around the world, must not be pacified by the bosses' institutions. Instead, it must be transformed into political consciousness and organization to bring an end to

this criminal capitalist system! Such a system doesn't deserve to exist! The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party stands in solidarity with the students of Ayotzinapa, their families and all workers who support this struggle. We call on them to fight for communism, a system organized and run by the working class, where exploitation and anti-worker violence will be punished as crimes. Our victory will be the students' vengeance! Destroy the capitalist system that exploits, disappears and murders our youth!

Fight for communism, a society of equality!

Ayotzinapa, communism is your fight!

¡Ayotzinapa escucha, el comunismo es tu lucha!✊

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