

CHALLENGE



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RACIST TERROR MEANS FIGHT BACK

CHICAGO, November 24 — A year ago today, Ferguson erupted in a second rebellion after the bosses' grand jury refused to indict Darren Wilson, the racist murderer of Mike Brown.

On this one-year anniversary, after the city government hid it for 400 days, the Chicago Police Department released video of the murder of Laquan McDonald, a Black seventeen-year-old. The video shows Laquan collapsing after a kkkop fires sixteen rounds into him.

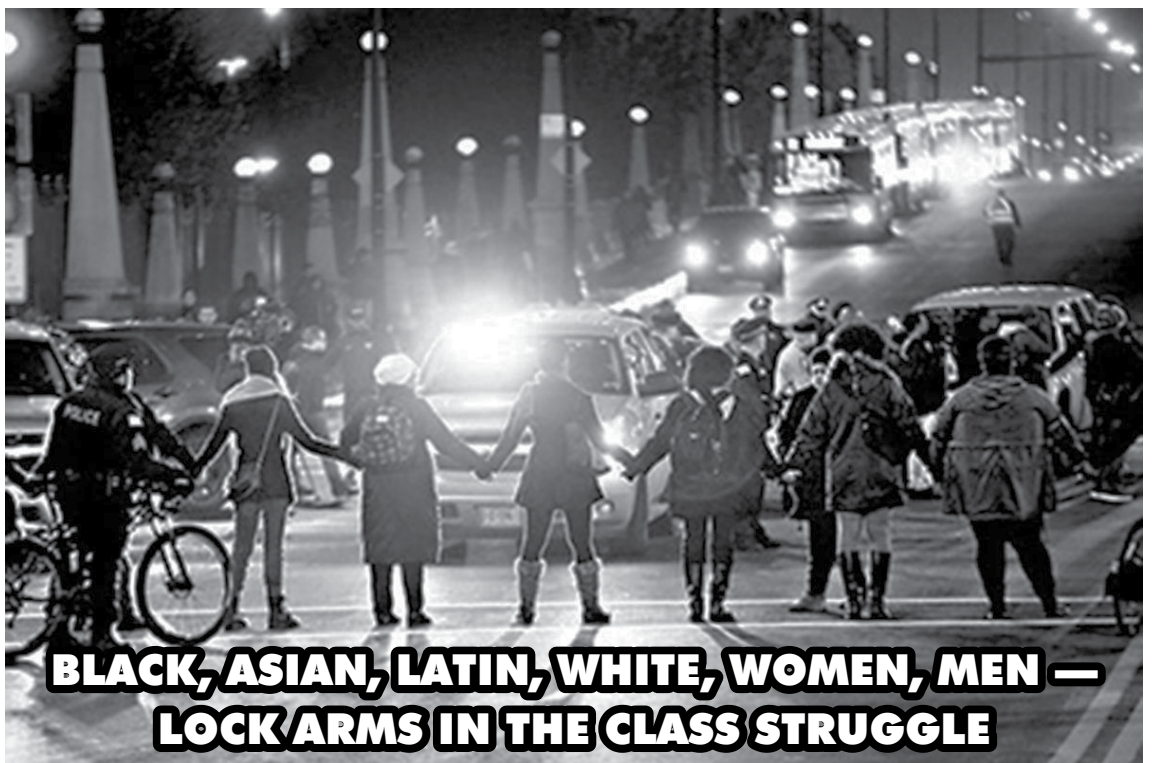
A multiracial group of Progressive Labor Party members and friends attended a march to protest the racist murder of Laquan. Workers around Chicago are enraged by the state execution, and are ready to fight. PLP organizes all workers to fight back with multiracial unity, and hold Black workers as key force to world-wide revolution to destroy capitalism.

Know Your Enemy

The protest was organized by University of Chicago-sponsored Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100). "This is a space for Black rage, for Black people," read the Facebook event page. The paralyzing politics of Black nationalism, and the power of multiracial unity became clear in the streets. More than a third of the demonstration consisted of white workers, and it was only our combined numbers that made it possible for us to take over an intersection. BYP100 tried to recreate the bosses' division of workers by race, which killed the potential to take over Lake Shore Drive, a major highway (more next issue).

If organized with militant multiracial unity under one red leadership, we could have shut down more of the city and would have been better prepared to fend off the attacks by the police during the march. Instead, Black nationalist politics severed working-class forces and is handicapping the fight against police terror. Our enemy is the capitalist state and the goons in blue that protect them, not white antiracists.

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**BLACK, ASIAN, LATIN, WHITE, WOMEN, MEN —
LOCK ARMS IN THE CLASS STRUGGLE**



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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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

Paris Attack Pretext for Fascism and War

In the wake of the slaughter of workers in Paris, there is no limit to the selective outrage and grief of the capitalist ruling class. The small-scale terrorists of the Islamic State (ISIS) are now targeted for an intensified aerial bombardment by the biggest, most lethal terrorists the world has ever known: the imperialist bosses of the United States and Europe. As imperialist cheerleader Roger Cohen wrote in the New York Times, "Saving Paris from the Islamic State will take ruthlessness — but save it we must" (11/21/15).

After barely registering the ISIS bombings that killed more than 40 people in Lebanon the day before, the capitalist media—egged on by shameless U.S. presidential candidates—whipped up a racist frenzy against Muslim, Black and immigrant workers. Donald Trump called for the closure of mosques and a national Muslim registry. Jeb Bush—a "moderate," mainstream Republican—clamored to close U.S. borders to all Muslim refugees.

The Paris bombings and shootings were a cowardly, despicable attack on unarmed workers. But we must not forget that thousands are murdered by capitalist state terror every day. When the U.S. bosses aren't bombing hospitals in Afghanistan, they are wiping out whole families with reckless drone strikes. They're shattering the lives of millions with mass racist incarceration, deportation and unemployment. To divert attention from their own monstrous crimes, the bosses are exploiting fears of ISIS and Al Qaeda to stir anti-Muslim racism and divide workers against one another.

At stake is the immense oil wealth of the Middle East. The imperialists in Russia and China want this cheaply extracted oil for themselves, while U.S. and European capitalists will stop at nothing to secure their control over it.

Racism, sexism and endless imperialist war—this is what capitalism offers the international working class. The Progressive Labor Party organizes in more than 25 countries to smash all racist borders with communist revolution. We call on all workers to stand together, fight back, and refuse to be suckered into the rulers' global game of divide and conquer!

Fascism: Bosses Discipline for War

Heightened racism and police terror against the working class is one aspect of rising fascism. Another aspect is the move by U.S. and European bosses to discipline their own ranks and sort out disputes among

the billionaires. Where will the next big global conflict play out—and who will foot the bill? These questions must be resolved if the bosses hope to get workers to accept a military draft, and to fight and die in the next major ground war.

In the book *The Prize*, Daniel Yergin shows how control over oil determines the course of capitalist empire. While challenged internationally by rival Russian and Chinese bosses, and domestically by the Koch brothers, the main wing of the U.S. ruling class still dictates the global production and distribution of oil through companies like Citigroup and ExxonMobil. This finance capital wing will stop at nothing to coerce the Koch faction to fall in line—or to smash them, if need be.

In their responses to the Paris attacks, there was little real difference between liberal Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republicans Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz. Clinton proposed a no-fly zone over Syria; Rubio, another mainstreamer, pushed for "a substantially increased commitment" of ground forces; Cruz, a Tea Party favorite, clamored for air strikes with more "tolerance for civilian casualties" (New York Times, 11/14/15). All three were calling for a re-escalated U.S. assault in the devastated region, which means a future of yet more death and displacement for millions of workers.

ISIS: Exxon's Mirror Image

The origins of ISIS trace back to 2003 and the U.S. imperialist-led genocide in Iraq, when Saddam Hussein's regime fell out with Exxon over oil profits. "Even with the influx of thousands of foreign fighters, almost all of the leaders of the Islamic State are former Iraqi officers" (Washington Post, 4/4/15). This explains ISIS's military success, as well as its ability to pump oil to fund its own anti-worker atrocities. As Bloomberg News reports, "the terrorist group is actually taking in \$500 million from oil a year" (11/19/15).

Beneath its religious façade, the ISIS ideology is all about profits, soaked in workers' blood. When U.S., French, Russian or Chinese bosses work themselves into a made-for-media rage over ISIS terrorism, they are screaming at their own reflection.

Bosses' Nightmare: International Working Class Unity

Over the last 50 years, U.S. and allied bosses have been constrained by a history of mass, militant anti-imperialist movements. In 1964, in New York's Times Square, the Progressive Labor Party led the first U.S. demonstration against the Vietnam War, part of a worldwide anti-imperialist, anti-racist upsurge. This international wave of strikes, rebellions and military mutinies, led mainly by Black workers and soldiers, was so powerful that today's bosses remain unable—as of yet—to mobilize for a major ground war.

The capitalists' ruthlessness should not be underestimated, however. Some bosses are banking on another world-altering event like 9/11, the attack on the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001, to rally U.S. workers to war. According to The Economist magazine, another finance capital mouthpiece:

With each attack that [ISIS] unleashes on the West, the [need] to use Western troops against it will grow. In the terrible event of a large strike on American soil, the matter would be settled (11/21/15).

As CHALLENGE went to press, U.S.

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Laquan, Jamar, Mike Brown Shut This Racist System Down

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Many workers and students were receptive to PLP politics that only taking state power with communist revolution will stop racist police terror. We distributed CHALLENGE, and some have their information to be invited to more PL events.

Racists Emboldened by Capitalist State Terror

As PLP grows in more than 28 countries, a movement with this power can do more than shut down intersections; it can smash racist terror. This past week, three fascists — emboldened by U.S. bosses' terrorist reign on Black, Latin, immigrant, and refugee workers; cops getting away with murder; more open gutter racists in the bosses' media — shot five Black youth protesting the police murder of 24-year-old Black worker Jamar Clark in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The police have killed over 1,083 people since the murder of Mike Brown (Vice, 8/9/15). Individual terrorism is unsurprising under a system that feeds off of the racist, sexist exploitation of the working class? Open racist terror is escalating against workers worldwide, from Minneapolis to Syria to South Africa, while rival U.S. and Russian imperialists square off in the Middle East and gear up for a major ground war (see page 2).



NEW YORK CITY, November 14 — "ISIS terrorists, shut it down! Exxon terrorists, shut it down!" Immediately following the Paris attacks, Progressive Labor Party rallied in the streets calling out the imperialists — from France to United States — on their vicious anti-Muslim racism. The bosses' media ramped up anti-Arab, anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant racism, using them as an excuse for intensified border control and calls for war. What we really need is working class unity against all bosses and their warmongering. Stand against imperialist war on our jobs, schools and universities! These recent attacks in Paris reflect the continued chaos created by the U.S. and French led oil war in Iraq and Syria. Connect the police terror against Black, Latin workers to the terrorism against Muslim, immigrant workers!✊

As long there is capitalism, workers worldwide will never be free of racist police terror, or the imperialist wars spawned by capitalism's relentless drive for profit. PLP is organizing a mass working-class movement to fight back, and smash this racist capitalists and their murderous state with communist revolution. We call on all

CHALLENGE readers and PLP collectives around the world to raise antiracist politics and actions at your job, school, or community organization. Give no free speech for racists and nationalists — the victory hinges on the multiracial unity of Black, white, Asian, Latin, indigenous, and immigrant workers.✊

Paris Attack French Bosses No Stranger to Terrorism

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imperialist ally Turkey shot down a Russian warplane over Syria for allegedly violating Turkish airspace. This incident will spur even greater efforts from bosses on all sides to impose fascism on the working class as they prepare for wider imperialist wars.

For now, the bosses are taking incremental steps toward fascism. In police states like France and Belgium, machine gun-toting cops sweep Arab neighborhoods. In Chicago, the bosses are girding for working-class rebellion after the belated video release of a kkkop murdering Black teen Laquan McDonald. Meanwhile, the New York Police Department is rolling out an "anti-terrorism" Critical Response Command: 527 kkkops with military-grade weapons and armor (New York Times, 11/20/15).

But PLP says: Fight back! The international working class still holds all the cards, including the potential to overthrow the entire murderous capitalist system. In our unions and mass organizations, workers must sharpen the struggle against the bosses' drive for imperialist war. We must fight the racist and sexist divisions the rulers attempt to force upon us. No capitalist politician or reform can liberate our class. We need a communist movement of millions of workers, students and soldiers to smash imperialism and destroy capitalism forever with communist revolution.

And we need you to help lead this mass movement. Join us!✊

Massacres of workers must be condemned, be they in Beirut or Paris. But when it comes to terrorizing the working class, ISIS can't compete with the brutal and racist history of the French imperialists. The French motto of "Liberté, égalité, fraternité" (liberty, equality, fraternity) rings as hollow as ISIS claims of religious purity. After its defeat in the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804), the first successful revolt against slavery in history, the French rulers continued to terrorize the world, mainly western and central Africa, out of a "duty to civilize inferior races," as dictated by French colonial boss Jules Ferry in a parliamentary speech of 1885.

But workers fought back. During World War II, through the Francs-Tireurs et Partisans (FTP), immigrant and native-born communist workers led the massive resistance to the Nazi occupation. By that point, the international communist movement no longer advocated armed revolution. When the French bosses were returned to power, they showed what they'd learned from their Nazi mentors. Here are just two examples.

On December 1, 1944, white French soldiers received orders to indiscriminately murder African prisoners of war who'd been interned at the Nazis' notorious Camp Thiaroye in the colony of French West Africa (later Sénégal). The death toll is unknown. More than a thousand of the African soldiers had mutinied when the French bosses refused to pay them as much as white soldiers. Survivors were sentenced by military tribunal to ten years in prison. A 1988 film on the massacre by the late anti-imperialist filmmaker, Ousmane Sembene, was banned in France and couldn't find

distribution until 2005. The French government refused to admit to the crime until 2012. Even today, this shameful history is ignored by schools in both France and Senegal.

On October 17, 1961, Paris became the site of another massacre by the French capitalist rulers. In northern Africa, armed Algerian workers were bringing French imperialists to their knees. Led by former Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon, who'd deported more than 1,000 Jews to the death camps during World War II, French government security forces tortured Muslim workers in Paris's Palais du Sports and slaughtered more than 200 of them, dumping their bodies into the River Seine. French cops also arrested 11,000 workers for demonstrating against Nazi-style identification cards and curfews for "Algerian Muslim workers."

When the U.S. and French bosses wail about ISIS committing the worst atrocity "on French soil" since World War II, they reveal their contempt for the lives of Arab, Muslim and African workers. The massacres of 1944 and 1961 fail to qualify as "atrocities" in the bosses' eyes. Nor does the French bosses' mass deportation of Jewish workers to Nazi death camps during World War II. Nor does the murder of tens of thousands of workers in the imperialist war in Algeria itself. The descendants of those victims are among the more than five million members of today's Algerian community in France, jammed into apartheid slums surrounding Paris.

These atrocities will end only when the imperialist murderers are wiped off the face of the earth by a communist-led international working class.

RCC Workers, Students Confront Racist Privatization

BOSTON, November 20 —When capitalists talk about “restructuring,” from the imperialist International Monetary Fund to Roxbury Community College (RCC), they mean robbing workers of their livelihoods and youth of a future. At RCC, where the student body is almost all working-class Black, Latin, and immigrant, racist attacks come in the form of attacking the workers. In less than two years, the administration has fired or forced out more than one-quarter of the faculty and staff, creating instability and degrading the college’s programs.

The latest attack came with a scheme to privatize the Information Technology (IT) Department, with the support of the Massachusetts state government and its Board of Higher Education. But a group of RCC staff and faculty and students are fighting back! We plan to deliver a petition at the next Board of Trustees meeting. We hope this action will spur more workers and students to fight back and to combat fear and passivity, which feed into the hands of the college administration.

“Privatization” Means Attacks on Workers

“Privatization” is a tactic capitalist governments are using the world over to boost profits and drive down workers’ standard of living. Governments sell off public-sector departments to private companies and replace relatively secure government jobs and decent benefits with low-wage, dead-end jobs with zero job security. Privatization is part of developing fascism. The

bosses rake in handsome profits through this increased exploitation. It’s one way the capitalists are responding to their growing economic crisis.

The administration’s justification for privatizing IT is based on their false claim that the RCC IT staff is incompetent. Their plan to outsource the department began last spring with a malicious smear campaign designed to ruin the reputations of the IT workers. College President Valerie Roberson called in the state police and the state attorney general’s office to lock down the IT office and investigate a supposed breach in the computer system. Earlier that morning, Roberson called the Boston Globe, which printed an article about the alleged breach without investigating. Other news media then picked it up. To date, not a shred of evidence has been produced to prove that a “breach” ever occurred. This vicious attack on workers shows how the capitalists use their state power to control the government, the police and the media.

The leadership of AFSCME, the IT workers’ union, is relying on the state’s anti-outsourcing Pacheco Law to stop the RCC administration from privatizing IT and firing the workers. But capitalists can always circumvent their own laws. The Massachusetts state auditor pledged help for the college make its case to skirt Pacheco. (The state legislature voted in January to grant the public transportation system a three-year reprieve from following Pacheco, a green light to privatize some bus routes.) Under capitalism, workers are not

protected by the bosses’ laws, the governor, or the supposedly neutral state auditor’s office.

Build A Movement, Fight to Win!

While many workers at RCC may feel powerless, feelings are not facts. We can challenge the administration’s power by uniting our natural allies: workers, students and the community. We can expose Roberson’s lies and upset RCC’s status quo. But even if we stop their plans to privatize IT, the administration would keep trying to use their power to hire and fire, set harsh work rules, and restructure the college. Our victory, though important, would most likely be short-lived.

Everybody at RCC knows that the bosses are united against us, and nobody wants to fight and lose. This contradiction in the class struggle under capitalism requires us to think politically and strategically about the meaning of “victory.” Real victory will be ours when the working class makes the rules for society. To achieve this, we need a long-term revolutionary outlook and a vision for a communist future free from the rule of profit. This victory may seem far off, but what we do today counts. We will be moving toward real victory if we build unity and confidence in our class and a spirit of resistance for the long fight ahead. Today we will be winning if some RCC students and workers decide to embrace this outlook. For the working class, this will be the most important victory of all. We will be building our army for the monumental and decisive battles to come!✊

Letter from Israel

Union Leaders Fail Workers

Here in Israel, I attended a rally for McDonald’s workers’ rights. Most of the protesters were Jewish students. For the past couple years, they have been fighting for increased wages and rights. However, when workers attend protests, they have gotten fired, suspended, or otherwise harassed. This protest was in solidarity with those workers to show the bosses that our class will not be intimidated and the movement will not be crushed.

Red Leadership Needed

Before the trade union leaders of Histadrut let me speak on the microphone, they wanted to know what I had to say. I told them, “I wanted to say that in the U.S. there is a similar movement for fast food workers (FF15) and that exploitation in Israel is the same as exploitation worldwide. All working class people have the same struggles and interests and we must unite against our oppressors, the capitalists.”

Upon hearing that, the leader said he represents the union and I cannot talk about exploitation because they are involved in a legal battle. If they claim workers are being exploited, it could be used against them in court. How outrageous! The union leadership is just as fake in Israel as in the U.S.! In fact, they make wimpy U.S. unions look strong. Workers in Israel make about \$6.50 an hour. To not call that what it is — exploitation — is ridiculous. True victories have never been won in court but through workers organizing and fighting back.

Histadrut is a Zionist union that supports attacks on Gaza. It collaborated with the ruling class of South Africa under apartheid, and received



funding from the CIA as well as the AFL-CIO, the trade union federation in the United States. Workers in Histadrut led a general strike in 2012 for low-wage and subcontracted workers that led to a settlement, including a three-year ban on any further strikes. The role of unions under capitalism is to negotiate the terms of workers’ exploitation, and play workers into the hands of ruling-class parties. This is true worldwide.

Confidence in the Working Class

What gave me hope, however, is talking to

everyday people at the rally. I found a lot of people who agreed that workers in Israel and Palestine face the same struggles because of capitalism. Contrary to what I’ve heard, not everyone has been won to Israeli fascism. There are still workers who want to unite with their class in Palestine to create a better world. There are antiracist Jewish workers here, like everywhere else, who are open to communism. We should always have confidence in the working class to understand and fight for communist revolution. Join the fight!✊

Chicago's Apartheid Trauma Care

CHICAGO, November 22 — On any given Saturday night in the trauma unit at Mount Sinai Hospital on Chicago's West Side, many Black and Latin men are admitted with multiple gunshot wounds. For this comrade and his co-workers, it happens so regularly that it seems almost routine. But there's nothing acceptable about the street violence—an outgrowth of the daily economic violence of capitalism—that brutalizes members of our class. Equally unacceptable are the proposed "solutions" by the city's ruling class, from more killer cops on the street to stricter gun legislation to longer prison sentences.

Murderous Care Black Workers

About 30 years ago, when a trauma care network was first established in Chicago, a number of Level 1 trauma centers were created on the city's North and West sides and nearby suburbs. But only two served the South Side, where the majority of the population is Black: the Michael Reese Hospital and the University of Chicago Medical Center. In 1988, two years after opening it, the obscenely wealthy, Rockefeller-created University of Chicago closed its adult trauma center, citing large financial losses. Today it accepts only patients 15 and younger. Michael Reese Hospital's trauma center closed in 1991.

The city's failure to maintain a Level 1 trauma center on the South Side is racist to the core. Most Black victims of major trauma must be transported up to ten miles to a hospital with adequate facilities. According to the American Journal of Pub-

lic Health, people shot more than five miles from the nearest trauma center are 23 percent more likely to die in transit. Of the two thousand-plus gunshot wound victims in Chicago in 2015 to date, more than 800 fall outside that five-mile radius (Chicago Tribune, 9/11/15).

Racist Liberals Attack; Workers Fight Back

For those who view Democrats as the "lesser evil," the liberal leaders' approach to health care in Chicago is instructive. Former Mayor Richard M. Daley did little or nothing during his 22 years in office to re-open a trauma center on the South Side. Current Mayor Rahm Emanuel led the charge to close half the city's

mental health clinics in 2012. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle appears ready to approve the closing of pediatric inpatient services at Stroger Hospital, which serves mostly Black and immigrant workers and their families (see CHALLENGE, 11/11/15).

Meanwhile, Barack Obama is building a \$500 million presidential library near the University of Chicago.

Finally after years of pressure from working-class activists, the University of Chicago is partnering with Sinai Health Systems to create a trauma center within Holy Cross Hospital in the city's Southwest side. But workers must put this "victory"

into context. It will do nothing to fight the poverty, desperation and violence created by the capitalist profit system.

Instead of worker-on-worker violence, the international working class needs worker-on-capitalist violence with a mass working-class Red army. We need an army to fight back against the racist Chicago Police Department for the murder of Laquan McDonald. We need to turn the guns around in the escalating imperialist bloodbath in Syria—and aim them at the capitalist bosses on all sides.

Only a communist society will make workers' health a priority. Only communism can eradicate all the traumas of capitalism—for good.✊



Communists at APHA: 'Revolution, Not Resolutions!'

CHICAGO, November 10 — Communists from the Progressive Labor Party joined the 12,000 attendees at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual convention in early November, and raised revolutionary politics through a rally, literature distribution, discussion groups, and more.

We kicked off with mass leafletting and selling CHALLENGE at the Opening Session. Our message: Capitalism is the enemy of public health — fighting racism is the key to social change and public health. Our leaflet also documented many struggles we are engaged in. Other organizing tools included a flyer about price gouging by drug companies.

PLP organized fighters for our annual Troublemakers Breakfast to discuss public health politics and plan actions for APHA. Over 30 people participated, including students. Our discussion covered a wide range, including about the cutbacks in healthcare that involve the threatened closure of the pedi-

atrics program at Stroger Hospital. Others raised the issues of the excessive prices of HIV and Hepatitis C drugs, and the fight against cholera in Haiti. We also examined student debt, the apartheid state of Israel-Palestine, and the high murder rates of transgender (particularly Black transgender) people. The group vowed to coordinate local and national public health struggles in the coming year.

U.S. Police Terror and Israeli Apartheid

In the session organized by the Black Caucus of Health Workers, young black students and professionals from the University of Illinois at presented talks on police violence. Treating racist police murder as part of a long-term public health crisis, speakers revealed that the number of people killed by kkkops—about 1,150 a year—is about seven times as high as the number of people lynched (160 a year) in the peak years of 1880s and 1890s. Without the recent courage and militancy

of the Ferguson and Baltimore rebels, there would be a much smaller movement against racist state violence, and less of an impetus for an important session like this one.

In the session on Palestinian health justice, a PLP member presented a paper proposing a single secular communist state in Israel-Palestine and exposing the unequal class societies that prevail in both Israel and Palestine. The audience applauded. This begs the question: why can't all borders be eliminated? It is not possible to have communism without making a worldwide revolution and having the international working class run society under one Party.

The Palestinian work group plans to invite every section of the convention to submit resolutions next year to force APHA to take a position against Zionism. Years ago, the APHA leadership had lied and promised to organize a fact-finding mission to pacify these fighters. Meanwhile, Israeli forces invaded towns

and hospitals killing health workers and patients, arresting and shooting kids throwing stones, and more. For a world to make public health its top priority, we must cut out the root cause: this capitalist disease responsible for state terror and racist inequality.

Rally in the Exhibit Hall

A dozen people chanted "patients, not patents" in condemnation of racist drug company practices. We protested pharmaceutical booths for their outrageous drug prices, especially for Hepatitis C treatments. Hepatitis C affects over 3 million U.S. residents and 80-160 million people worldwide and is disproportionately prevalent among the poor. Companies like Gilead are charging \$80,000 for the course of treatment. This is a racist attack on our class! With the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement, drug companies will be allowed to set higher prices and maintain monopoly patents for

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LETTERS

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

On-the-Job Report

Base-Building and Resilience

Patience is the most important characteristic I have learned since joining Progressive Labor Party. Within the current conditions facing the working class, patience will protect us from reactionary ideas and actions.

I work at a bottling distribution company in Texas. The ideas of my fellow workers, like most, are controlled by capitalist ideology. Racism, nationalism, sexism and reliance on the bosses have been persistent. Initially, it was difficult to maintain anti-capitalist conversations. But with patience, I have been able to develop some friendships and trust through constantly taking a pro-worker, anti-profit stance.

We face many struggles on the job. When I began work at the company, free water was provided. But in September, the company began charging us. I explained to the workers how it was wrong to steal our wages during a time of low profits for the company. I exposed how the plant's bosses got free water, but the workers who produced the plant's profits—and the bosses' salaries—did not.

Everyone agreed and many were angry, but there was no agreement on a plan of action. One

worker suggested alerting the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). I took charge and called, which allowed me to link capitalism and the government when OSHA told us the company's action was completely legal.

With this step forward in class consciousness, we took two steps backwards through defeatism. Most of the workers insisted there was no point in speaking out since no one had our back. I asserted that this was why we had to take things into our own hands. We must stand together, since water is the most vital component of human life. No one took up my proposal, but trying to organize a strike after two months on the job is a difficult mountain to climb. We haven't built that endurance yet.

At a recent human resources meeting, I brought up the common concern for higher wages. The head of human resources, a department most of the guys thought was for us, told us we get exactly what we deserved—a measly \$10.40 an hour. Later, when we got together on break, I discussed how what we do is the foundation of this company. But the company thinks we don't deserve to live like those who own it.

Through small but persistent steps, I have been able to discuss a lot. Sometimes we even joke about going on strike, but no one is as serious as I am, yet. The potential is there, and I will continue the struggle. Two workers were invited to a forum we had on PLP's trip to Ferguson. Neither showed up, but I'm still a new organizer and can break that barrier through constant struggle.

Tomorrow may not bring the revolution, but with every day that passes we get one day closer. With patience but persistence, my struggle will strengthen. and with the 2016 elections coming up and the realities of fascism exposing its unfettered free fall presses on urgency on me, and other I hope. I will continue to work on my CHALLENGE distribution, and recently I was able to pass out my first CHALLENGEs to four workers. I have been given the honor of organizing the workers' club, so I must strive for better results. Hopefully this criticism of my success and failures help you all know we are not alone in these difficult times organizing the people. But we must have confidence in our class, for the potential is there. Here's to the struggle of the international communist revolution!

Inspired by Comrades in Haiti

I recently had the opportunity to visit our comrades in Haiti. In a few days, I was more inspired than ever to fight against this capitalist system. Before and during the trip I read a book, *Red & Black in Haiti: Radicalism, Conflict, and Political Change, 1934-1957* by Matthew J. Smith. I was reminded of some important lessons regarding Black nationalism and committing to protracted struggle that might be helpful for others.

Haiti is the best example of capitalism's failure, with workers here living under the poorest conditions in the Western hemisphere. Most are unemployed and utilities like water and electricity are things the poorest workers in Haiti could only dream of. Many eat only once a day, and many others once every few days. When elections were coming up, bosses and their 54 presidential candidates gave people small sums of money, food

and drinks in exchange for votes.

Ever since the slaves emancipated themselves from the French bosses in 1804, the working class in Haiti has been an inspiration. This revolution was not the end to the fight for freedom. In 1946, a communist student-led general strike brought the whole country to a halt. During my trip, one student asked me, "How can young people change the world?" Luckily for her, students there have already set a great precedent, including our Party's activity on campuses, in the outer towns, and in the streets.

The old communist movement in Haiti was involved in many sharp struggles. The Haitian ruling class used violence, intimidation and expulsion to try to silence them. The bosses also spread anti-communist propaganda through their media, and used noirisme—Black nationalism—to

confuse workers and mount an ideological attack against communists in the Popular Socialist Party. The noiriste and staunch anticommunist François ("Papa Doc") Duvalier, backed by U.S. imperialism, ruled a fascist state through terrorism, rape, and murder from 1957 to 1971, when he was succeeded by his fascist son.

But Communists have continued to find ways to reemerge and unite with the masses of Haiti. History shows that communism belongs to the international working class; the two successful revolutions were in Russia and China, and workers from regions ranging from the Indian subcontinent to Africa to Latin America took up red ideas en masse. Many in PLP know that communism is far from a "white people's ideological tool." Our comrades in Haiti know this, too.

Communists worldwide need to expose the lie that communism is an intellectual movement of white people. This is especially important at a time when Black Lives Matter would allow Black racist Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson to attend one of their conferences while white workers who fight racism are banned.

Only a PLP-led communist system can put the working class — from Haiti to Syria — in power. On the first night, while sharing our stories of fightback, one comrade acknowledged that our Party's fight is very difficult but also very important, and that it will take a long-term commitment to smash this system. He is willing to make that commitment. Before leaving, I told him that meeting committed comrades like him make fighting for communism a little bit easier. I look forward to working even harder to make a communist world a reality.



APHA Convention: Revolution, Not Resolutions

continued from page 5

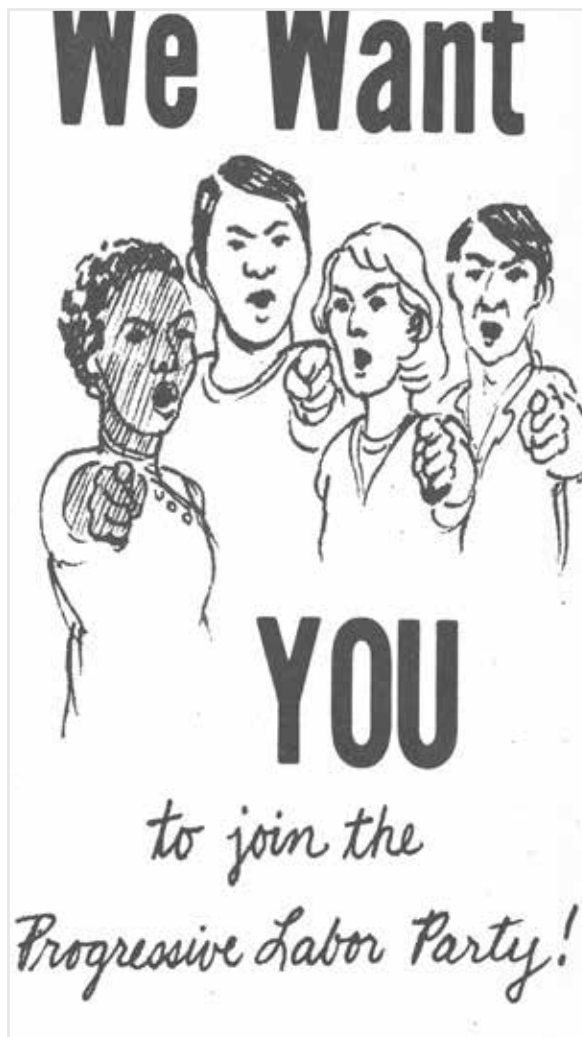
longer periods of time, further killing the working class by restraining access to drugs. While APHA security followed us and issued warnings, vendors and visitors took our literature and thanked us for providing some antiracist excitement around an important issue.

Reformism, Camara Jones Style

Incoming president, Camara Jones, instituted a campaign to make racism the major focus of APHA (about time!) APHA, like many professional organizations, tries to reform capitalism and secure a seat at the table of policy makers. We want to burn down the table and create a system based on equity where there is no profit, racism, or any other forms of oppression.

Even as the ruling class works to place liberals like Jones in charge of key mass organizations such as the APHA, her presidency is an opportunity for PLP to continue to fight for multiracial unity and militancy in the struggle for public health equity. Our aim is to do what Camara Jones never will—build a base for communist revolution among public health workers. The opening is there; as the president of the Black Caucus of Health Workers said, “we need revolution, not resolutions.” By the end of the convention, over 2,250 communist literature were distributed, including a four-page document outlining the need for communist revolution.

Join your local public health struggles and come to Denver in November 2016 for the next APHA meeting. Join the Progressive Labor Party if you see no justice under capitalism.✊



CUNY Struggle

continued from page 8

strength in numbers, the march organizers called for everyone to follow the cops' orders. These misleaders led chants like “There is only one solution, intifada revolution” while herding people onto the sidewalk! To be serious about revolution, you have to start training now. You take the streets, you use a bullhorn, and within the limits of the period and situation you defy the cops. You must have confidence in the working class, and you need a revolutionary communist party to lead.

On the march back to Hunter, we chanted, “Tuition hikes mean we got to fight back!” and “If we don't get it, shut it down!” We linked tuition hikes to racist murders by cops; both are attacks on working-class youth. Soon all 150 people were chanting with us.

As we shared the bullhorn with others, the speeches became more militant, more anti-racist and anti-sexist, more class-based, and more international. It was inspiring to see what three women could do with a bullhorn and a sharp line. With just a little boldness, we were able to shift the politics sharply to the left.

Our struggle will be long and hard, but it makes for a life worth living. As we chanted as the rally, “The only solution is communist revolution!”✊

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

France terrorizes workers

GW, 10/30 — Nadira Achab looked out across the curved concrete blocks of...La Grande Borne...south of Paris and sighed, “People here want to be treated like normal citizens, not second-class citizens...”

La Grande Borne...is...a byword for hardship and inequality where about half of the 13,000 residents live below the poverty line, and half of the children leave school with no qualifications. It is...the lack of services (even the post office closed...), the isolation of being hemmed in by motorways...the feeling of abandonment... [and] the “stigmatization and discrimination” against people who live there....

It is ten years since....the death of two boys hiding from the police in an electricity substation...outside Paris triggered weeks of unrest....More than 9,000 vehicles, dozens of public buildings and businesses were set on fire....evidence of the hopelessness of a generation of young people stuck in dismal suburbs, marginalized and jobless because of their address, skin color or parents' immigrant origins.

Now, a decade on...the banlieues [slum neighborhoods] remain in crisis.... — “territorial, social and ethnic apartheid” in France....

France is ranked among the developed world's most unequal school systems....

More than 4.4 million people live in...the banlieues...where, segregated along race and class lines, they face...“unbearable discrimination.” [In] Grigny, a town...south of Paris....three in five children live below the poverty line, unemployment — at 22 percent — is twice the national average,...more than 40 percent among young people....where private slumlords have been taken to court for housing people in fetid conditions.

Liar Obama: no help for child refugees

NYT, 11/6 — President Obama vowed a year ago to give Central American children fleeing violence a new, legal way into the United States by allowing them to apply for refugee status while in their own countries instead of accepting help from smugglers....

But not a single child has entered the United States...in the program since its establishment in December....

More than 5,400 children, most...trying to escape street violence, extortion and sexual assault...have applied to join their parents, who are already in the United States legally. So far the Department of Homeland Security has interviewed only 90 of them, and lengthy procedures for getting airplane tickets and processing paperwork have delayed those whose applications were approved.

Indonesia: bosses' 'slash-and-burn' profits are toxic for 500,000

GW, 10/30 — Forest fires raging across Indonesia are...responsible for up to half a million cases of respiratory infection...now being described as a “crime against humanity.”

Tens of thousands of hectares of forest have been on fire for more than two months as a result of slash and burn — ...the fastest way to clear land for new plantations. Indonesia is the world's largest producer of palm oil and fires are frequently lit to clear the land....

...Daily emissions from the fires have surpassed the average daily emissions of the entire U.S. economy....

...In...Sumatra and Kalimantan...levels of a pollutant standard index have pushed toward 2,000. Anything above 300 is considered hazardous....

...More than 500,000 cases of acute respiratory tract infections have been reported since 1 July....

...43 million people on the two islands had been inhaling toxic fumes....the number of unrecorded cases was likely much higher.

Bosses' star wars

Stratfor, 11/15 — For most strategic planners, space represents the ultimate high ground...(and) in achieving military dominance, the United States came to increasingly rely on space-based infrastructure to wage war...However, the U.S. military is not the sole operator of space-based infrastructure...(and) the single biggest example of this threat to U.S. military orbital systems comes from China. A progression of Chinese anti-satellite missile tests carried out over the past few years has alarmed the Pentagon.

As militaries around the globe expand their capabilities, so will they increase their reliance on space-based systems. Thus space will become increasingly militarized.

History tells us that such opportunities for resources rarely go smoothly or unchallenged...(and has generally) led to perpetual conflict and military posturing, so it is logical that competition for resources elsewhere could inevitably lead to more conflict and could necessitate the ability to project military power there in one form or another.

Netanyahu blames Palestinian for Holocaust

GW, 10/30 — Binyamin Netanyahu...claim[ed] that the Palestinian grand mufti of Jerusalem had suggested the genocide of the Jews to Adolph Hitler....

...Historians...accused him [Netanyahu] of everything from fabrication to helping Holocaust-deniers' cause.

“Hitler didn't want to exterminate the Jews, he wanted to expel the Jews,” said Netanyahu. “And Haj Amin al-Husseini went to Hitler and said: ‘If you expel them, they'll all come here [to Palestine].’” According to Netanyahu, Hitler then asked, “What should we do with them?” and the mufti replied: “Burn them.”

In reality Hussein did not meet Hitler until November 28, 1941, months after the mass killing of Jews had already begun.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Women Students Lead Antiracist Struggle



Bringing anti-racist rage to the student march at Hunter College



Inside MEC: “When they say exit — we say fight back!”

NEW YORK, November 12 — This Veteran’s Day, twenty members and friends of Progressive Labor Party rallied against racist tuition hikes at Medgar Evers College (MEC), a Brooklyn branch of the City University of New York (CUNY). As we confronted campus cops and attacked racist police terror, we explained how imperialism is leading to world war. Most important, we raised the banner of communist revolution.

The next day, at Hunter College in Manhattan, PLers attended the much bigger Million Student March. Although it failed to point the way to revolution, three women PLers stepped up and provided a communist spark.

Defy the Bosses

At the MEC rally, CHALLENGE practically flew out of our hands; we distributed more than 350 papers before running out. Many student friends came to join us, with two providing strategic leadership. PLP declared that the best way to honor veterans is to fight U.S. imperialism and rally in solidarity with our working-class sisters and brothers in the Middle East.

After an hour-long outdoor demonstration, students made the bold decision to rally inside the MEC cafeteria, though we knew the campus kkkops would give us a hard time. Some students recognized us from our CHALLENGE sales and asked how they might get involved and come to our study groups. Others clapped and chanted with us. When the administration yelled at us to leave, we chanted, “When they say exit, we say fight back!”

With every rally at MEC, we meet more antiracist students. The struggle for a better world will continue as we fight to smash this racist system and replace it with communism!

Three Women Leaders, One Fierce Line

The Million Student March was called to demand tuition-free public college, cancellation of all student debt and a \$15 minimum wage for campus workers. With nothing more than a bullhorn, a few signs, and determination, three women comrades again raised the banner of communism.

As we approached the rally, we heard an unamplified chanting with no class content: “CUNY for the people!” But the schools we have today will never be for working people. “Higher education” is an instrument of the ruling class to poison the next generation with racist, sexist ideas, and to justify capitalist inequalities. Colleges and universities foster research that attacks the working class, from military studies to racist pseudo-science on human intelligence. Under communism, after a mass working class seizes state power with a communist revolution, all workers will participate in lifelong education that serves the needs of our class.

At Hunter College, more than 150 protesters marched to Chancellor James B. Milliken’s house to demand an end to tuition hikes. Despite our

CUNY, like all schools, serves the needs of the bosses. Capitalist education funnels us into the bosses’ system of competition and individualism. It tries to brainwash us into believing in the bosses’ sham of democracy and the myth of equal opportunity.

Since 2011, CUNY tuition has increased \$300 per year, and more hikes for the city’s four-year colleges are planned. Where is this money going? Not to improve education for these mainly Black, Latin, Asian, and immigrant students! In fact, our professors, staff, and campus workers haven’t seen a raise in six years. Many live in poverty. Rather, these tuition hikes are funding the bosses’ oil war plans. [Ed. Note: The last sentence needs to be explained or deleted.]

In 2013, the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was restored at CUNY. The capitalist rulers are intensifying recruitment of Black, Latin, and immigrant youth as U.S. imperialism moves toward broader global wars. The students now underserved at CUNY (and at public colleges throughout the U.S.) are the ones who will be drafted and sent to fight these wars.

When soldiers rebelled against the Vietnam War, Black soldiers led the way. Recently, in Ferguson and Baltimore, Black workers again led the fightback against racist murders by police. Students and workers have no stake in the bosses’ bloody conflicts. Only communism, a system run by and for workers, can create a world without tuition, poverty, and war.

Continued on page 7

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