

CHALLENGE



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STILL NO JUSTICE FOR LAQUAN

COURTS PROTECT KKKOP, ATTACK ANTIRACISTS

CHICAGO, IL, May 23—Another pre-trial hearing was scheduled today at the Cook County courthouse for killer Chicago kkkop Jason Van Dyke, who is responsible for the murder of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald on October 20, 2014. Caught on dashboard camera, the 16 shots that Van Dyke pumped into Laquan's body as he lay lifeless in the street was another stark reminder of the role the kkkops play in the defense of the racist capitalist system. The resultant cover-up by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and State Attorney Anita Alvarez further demonstrated the racism of the state, sparking mass outrage and militant fightback throughout the city and beyond. As Van Dyke's lawyer baldly stated in court, the murder of Laquan was simply "business as usual." (Chicago Tribune, 5/25)

Bosses' Kkkourts Protect Killer Kkkops

The court showed its role in protecting the racism of the state when an observer in the courtroom was brought up on charges of contempt of court for his response to the racist proceedings. Despite already being indicted on first-degree murder charges, Van Dyke and his attorneys continue to postpone his trial by filing ridiculous motions attempting to have the murder indictment dismissed. During this hearing, the crowd was forced to listen to Van Dyke's scumbag lawyer prattle on at length over all the reasons he was "justified" in his racist murder of a Black teenager.

The judge denied the motions to have the murder charges cleared. This outcome provoked excitement among many of the anti-racists in the room, including one anti-racist teacher, who snapped his fingers repeatedly in approval of the judge's decision. "What is your purpose here, sir?!" the Cook County presiding judge barked at the teacher.

"To see a racist murderer go on trial," the anti-racist defiantly responded, turning to face Van Dyke and his lawyers.

With this bold statement and a multi-racial crowd packing the courtroom, these antiracists and PLP helped send the message that racist kkkops and the capitalist state that protects them will never be tolerated as "business as usual."

The judge and his bailiffs used the disruption



Antiracists picket in front of kkkop Jason Van Dyke's home at 6015 S. Normandy Avenue last June. More fightback to come

as an excuse to set an extreme example of the bold anti-racist. The judge demanded that he be brought forward. In response to having his racist authority undermined by both the snapping and the teacher's defiant response to his questioning, he had the man arrested for direct contempt of court with bail set at \$40,000.

Once the initial shock passed, PLP comrades present wasted no time. Immediately after the hearing was over, we determined the identity of the man and began contacting community bond organizations, his family, and lawyers in order to have him released as soon as possible. He was out on bond that same evening. We commend this fighter for defying Van Dyke and the racist kkkourts and will stand in solidarity with him in any legal battles that lie ahead.

Not Just a Few Bad apples

Despite the presumed "victory" of the judge dismissing the motions to prevent Van Dyke from going to trial for murder, we communists will continue to stress the relationship of the cops, the courts, and the preservation of the murder-

ous capitalist profit system. Even if the killer cop stands trial, even if he were to be found guilty by a jury (fat chance), the brutal system that breeds racist murderers like Van Dyke would still remain intact. Despite the gratification that would result from seeing a racist cop locked up, such a conclusion could lend itself to the false argument that "it's only a few bad cops" and that the bosses' justice system can be reformed to meet the needs of the working class.

The comrades here in Chicago will continue to challenge Van Dyke and the racist, sexist system that trained him, armed him with weapons, and unleashed him on our class. We will challenge them in the courtroom, in our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and our schools. We will march again on his very home in the Archer Heights neighborhood, as we did last summer, to remind everyone that there will be no refuge for racist murderers (See Challenge 7/16). With every action, every argument, every new comrade won to the Party, we will build the momentum and power to eventually bury the bosses once and for all with international communist revolution.✊

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.

☆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?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. 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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Editorials

Bosses' Infighting Threatens Workers

The main wing of the U.S. ruling class has escalated its campaign to check Donald Trump and bring him into line with the bosses' primary objective: to win mass support among U.S. workers for the next big inter-imperialist war and the fascism the bosses need to wage it.

In the wake of the firing of FBI Director James Comey, the capitalist media scandal around Trump's possible collusion with Russia is growing by the day. Former FBI chief Robert Mueller was chosen as special counsel to prosecute "any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump; and...any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation" (cbsnews.com, 5/17). The bosses are playing hardball. Their intensified effort to discipline their own ranks is a hallmark of rising fascism.

Whether or not Trump and his flunkies actually colluded with Vladimir Putin to help Trump get elected president last fall, the bosses' open infighting is dangerous for the working class. It distracts from intensifying racist attacks in the U.S. and around the world, such as the U.S.-led airstrikes that have killed thousands of civilians in Iraq and Syria in three years of fighting with the junior capitalists of ISIS (New York Times, 5/25). And it uses Trump's bizarre and reckless style to build working-class support for the state terrorists who compose the liberal main wing of the ruling class—not to mention the racist, murderous FBI (see box).

Trump, Precarious Servant for U.S. Empire

Trump's short reign has been a horror for the international working class. He's launched two raids in Yemen that killed at least 30 civilians (The Guardian,

5/24). He reinstated the racist "global gag rule" that denies family planning funding to organizations that discuss abortion as an option for women. Domestically, Trump has expanded Obama's racist anti-immigrant policy, creating a climate of fear among all workers, undocumented, documented, and citizen alike. He has appointed overt racists like Betsy DeVos as education secretary and Jeff Sessions as attorney general. He has submitted a draconian, racist budget that slashes billions from what few social welfare programs are left. And his proposed healthcare reform threatens to leave an additional 23 million people without coverage (Congressional Budget Office, 5/24).

The rulers' master plan is to force U.S. workers to accept fascist conditions in preparation for war with another world power, likely China or Russia. The bosses' problem is that Trump is too volatile and unreliable to serve as an effective CEO for a U.S. empire in decline.

Barack Obama, and Bill Clinton before him, backed policies similar to Trump's assaults on workers. But unlike Trump, they were able to hold on to the support of a large section of the working class, including most Black and Latin workers. They were helped by identity politics, which excuse racism and sexism when pushed by Black people. In 2014, for example, Obama signed off on an \$8.7 billion cut to food stamps (MSNBC, 2/14). His signature education policy, Race to the Top, was no less destructive and racist than George W. Bush's much-maligned No Child Left Behind. Obama deported a record 3.2 million immigrants, of whom more than 80 percent had no history of violent crime (Intercept, 5/15). All of this happened with relative quiet from the liberal bosses' media.

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Jim Crow Schools Anti-Racism Terrifies DoE Bosses



NYC, May 31—Park Slope Collegiate parents organize a vigorous multiracial rally in front of DoE headquarters.

New York City school students suffer the racist indignity of attending one of the most segregated school systems in the country. This is no accident. It is a calculated plan by the city's ruling class to maintain exclusive enclave schools that are significantly or predominantly white—and to subject the other 90 percent of the city's 1.1 million public school children to a racist, sub-par education.

The bosses' segregation strategy is designed to divide the working class, build racist ideas about Black and Latin children, and blame students for the failure of capitalism. Fewer and fewer opportunities exist for young people. High-paying jobs are a thing of the distant past for workers with high school educations.

Entry-level, low-paying jobs in offices and restaurants are increasingly filled by people with college diplomas. In this wage-cutting climate, where the bosses are funneling resources into the U.S. military for the next global inter-imperialist conflict, they see no need to pay for a school system that prepares all students to succeed.

Instead, they are fostering a school system of a few so-called "good" schools and a vast number of "bad" schools. The "good" schools are a hybrid public-private system to serve the city's middle-class and more affluent residents. These schools receive more money

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AT&T Wireless Workers on Strike

NEW YORK CITY, May 21—Twenty-one thousand AT&T Mobile workers went on a three-day national strike this weekend, as a dress rehearsal for a bigger confrontation. These workers are fighting for survival in a continuing offensive of capitalist profiteering against worker's conditions of work and living standards. Rivalries between global imperialists are sharpening, and moving toward even greater war. While the telecommunications bosses tighten the screws, the Progressive Labor Party salutes and supports the AT&T workers for saying enough is enough!

Much like Verizon Wireless's strike last summer this battle is over the outsourcing of call center jobs, the closing of stores, hiring of part-timers instead of full-time workers, and higher co-pays for health insurance. The workers are represented by Communication Workers of America (CWA). The three-day strike is the first for most of these workers and was intended as a shot across the bosses' bow to move contract negotiations forward.

PLP members in Brooklyn visited a local store and walked and talked with the workers who were predominantly young Black women. Their enthusiasm was high and they warmly greeted us. We intend to go back to the store, develop ties with these workers and help as they prepare for the bigger storms ahead.

U.S. workers, like telecommunications workers at AT&T, are on the front lines of these attacks as the U.S. bosses gear up for war with their imperialist rivals, the bosses of China and Russia. The communist Progressive Labor Party stands side by side with the AT&T workers. The AT&T workers are a key part of a vital organ of capitalism, telecommunications. Examining the role of telecommunications within capitalism, these workers, together with their international sisters and brothers in transit, mining and heavy industries, hold the power to shape a communist world without borders, imperialism, money or profits!

Telecom Workers: Vital Organs of Capitalism

"Telecommunications" refers to the simple sending and receiving of electronic messages. For the working class in the U.S. and many countries, telecommunications—in the form of Internet—capable devices like smartphones and their wireless carriers like AT&T, Verizon and other, have entered and now dominate many aspects of life. For many workers growing up today, Internet access and sending text messages can be a taken-for-granted part of every day life.

The global ubiquity of telecommunications is matched only by the depth of its penetration into the labor process. Many lines have blurred and mutually-reinforcing relationships forged between capitalist industries. As of 2013, the London-based Financial Times' top 500 companies based on profits included seventeen global wireless telephone companies (including AT&T), fifteen fixed-line phone utilities, fifteen multinational mass media companies (like TimeWarner), fifteen software and computer technology companies (including Apple, IBM, and now Google), and eleven healthcare companies who count on massive digital and fiber optic networks for their explosive growth ("FT 500," 2013).

Not listed as companies, but even more dependent on telecommunications as any company, are the imperialist bosses' militaries in the U.S., Russia, and China. The U.S. bosses in particular maintain a global array of over 750 military bases, killer drone fleets, aircraft carrier fleets, and nuclear submarines, all dependent on telecommunication.

At the center of this entire industry is the



international working class, and telecommunications involves nearly every sector of it. Companies like Apple's and Google's brands depend on the advertising industry. Products like phones and computers rely on the extraction of metals and minerals by millions of miners in sub-Saharan Africa, who live in U.S. and Chinese imperialist-backed fascist states. These raw materials are shipped to factory workers in India, China and elsewhere and assembled according to designs made by workers in computer, electrical and mechanical engineering. Warehousing and transport workers ship these products, and millions of storefront and call center workers sell and provide technical support for them.

From that to the workers who build and operate the electrical grids themselves, the power stations, the cables; who manage the invisible electromagnetic waves that devices use; to the thousands of satellites built and launched into orbit around the earth—for capitalism and imperialism, telecommunications have emerged in importance as electricity and water themselves. When workers disrupt even one step in this entire process, we catch a glimpse of the immense power of our class.

AT&T Workers Represent Working-Class Potential

To meet their current demands, the AT&T workers' strike will take more than contract negotiations to beat back the AT&T bosses. It will take militant rank-and-file workers' power. Building workers' power in AT&T must go hand in hand with raising consciousness of their potential power at the center of global capitalism. Capitalism will continue to extract more from workers to bolster profits and prepare for the coming war. All workers face a future of not only more, but also more militant battles against the bosses.

We in PLP fight to unite all workers around the globe to turn this imperialist war against the world's workers into a class war for communist revolution so that the working class can share among us the wealth we produce and control our destiny. Then, imperialism, racism, and sexism can be destroyed. Then, this modern miracle of telecommunications infrastructure, built by the hands and brains of workers, will no longer be used for profit and war, but for solidarity and communism!✊

No Free Speech for Racists

Antiracists Picket Anti-Immigrant Hate Group

BOSTON, May 28—Today, 70 protestors picketed at the Elks Club in West Roxbury, the site of a panel discussion called by Bostonians Against Sanctuary Cities. This racist organization formed after Trump's election with the goal of popularizing his viciously anti-immigrant agenda.

When Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends arrived, an ad hoc group of protesters from all over the Boston area were standing in a line with signs. We seized the opportunity to provide some leadership and organized a picket line. We began chants "Hitler Rose, Hitler Fell, racist hate groups go to hell" and "Stop racist deportations, working people have no nation." We distributed a leaflet and carried signs that boldly exclaimed "No Free Speech for Racists", and "We won't be divided, we won't be fooled. Racism is the boss's tool". Almost everyone accepted our leaflet "The main thing to do: Fight Racism."

The panel consisted of a mother whose son was killed by an undocumented immigrant, a Bristol County sheriff who wants to use Massachusetts inmates to build the wall on the Mexican border, and a woman from the openly anti-immigrant Washington DC organization, Center for Immigrant Studies. It is an ultra-conservative group trying to get a foothold in liberal Massachusetts.

The Trump takeover is fostering more racism as well as more protest. Many protesters are new to fightback and open to rejecting the liberalism of the Democratic Party. Anti-immigrant racism has always been and is part of capitalist profiteering and exploitation of the working class. Electing a Democrat will not change that. Obama deported 3.2 million immigrants, more than any U.S. president in history. PLers need to go to these protests with the outlook of meeting new friends who want to help build a militant, multiracial movement against racism, and we need to bring our friends to help develop them as working class leaders. Join us!✊

Manchester: Little vs. Big Terrorists

The Manchester atrocity shows how cowardly acts of individual violence are spawned by the biggest terrorists of them all: UK and U.S. imperialists. It also creates an opening for state violence and fascism against the working class.

On May 22 at an Ariana Grande concert, Salman Ramadan Abedi detonated a device packed with metal nuts and bolts and killed 22 people, injured over 60, many of them children, and terrorized the working class. The Islamic State has claimed responsibility, but there is no evidence providing IS was directly involved (Stratfor, 5/27).

The 22-year-old Libyan Briton bomber's action was a despicable attack on masses of unarmed youth and families. But, the biggest terrorists are the capitalist bosses. When the UK and U.S. bosses aren't bombing hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan, they're shattering the lives of millions with racist incarceration, deportation, segregated housing and schooling, and unemployment. To divert attention from their own monstrous crimes, the bosses will exploit fears of ISIS to stir anti-Muslim racism as well as to pledge allegiance to this savage system to protect us.

A Century in the Making

The imperialists have created their own terrorists. Much of the religious sectarian violence and rise of Islamic militant groups can be traced to the British, French, and U.S. imperialists.

Not only did the British imperialists, along with

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How Do You Spell Racist? D-O-E

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per student and get better facilities and more varsity sports teams. On top of that, many have PTAs that can raise up to a million dollars a year or more to further supplement their funding from the New York City Department of Education (DoE).

Racist residential school zones, deliberately drawn to exclude Black and Latin students, are used to keep certain elementary schools mostly white. A school "choice" system to legitimize racist screening practices helps middle and high schools do the same. From a young age, most white students are categorized as "smart" or "talented and gifted" or "hard working." Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Black and Latin students are branded as deficient and undeserving of a decent school.

In the midst of these daily racist attacks on New York City school children, the parents, teachers, students, and administrators at Park Slope Collegiate have been trying to build a public secondary school in Brooklyn that is open to all. The PSC community has struggled for years against the DoE's racist education system. It refuses to track students into ability groupings, a proven tool of segregation. It actively recruits an integrated student body. It publicly protested the DoE's installation of an elitist enclave school in its building. It continues to battle to rid the school's campus of metal detectors, and to defend its students against

racist assaults by school safety agents and the New York Police Department. Most recently, PSC rocked the DoE's racist boat by demanding an integrated sports program, with equal access to varsity sports teams for its Black and Latin students. The Progressive Labor Party is proud to have participated in many battles against racism fought by the PSC community.

The bosses and their system are powerful but fragile, which explains why the DoE deems PSC a threat. The recent McCarthyite attack on PSC (see CHALLENGE, May 31), an attempt to use anti-communism to divide the school and stop its multiracial fight against racism, is an old bosses' ploy. During the Civil Rights Movement, the KKK governors of Mississippi, Alabama, and other Jim Crow states tried to block the unity of Black and white workers and students, many of whom were communists, by declaring that "race mixing is communism." New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina and Mayor Bill De Blasio are defenders of the new Jim Crow, which feeds on school segregation and racist inequalities.

Since our formation in the 1960s, PLP has joined workers' battles against racism. Our Party is committed to the struggle to build a communist society led by the working class, free from capitalist racism, exploitation, oppression, and devastation. Standing shoulder to shoulder with the families and school staff at PSC, fighting to defend young people from a racist school system, is a part of our responsibility to fight for workers' power and a communist world.✊

Bosses' Infighting

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FBI Comey, Not so Disciplined Himself

Unlike Obama or Clinton, however, Trump is unable or unwilling to veil his administration's flagrant racism and sexism—and he refuses to be reined in, at least up to now. That's a big problem for the ruling class. Trump's most brazen act was the unceremonious firing of Comey after the FBI director had launched the Russia collusion investigation.

Comey is somewhat undisciplined himself. Last October, just eleven days before the presidential election, he announced that he had revived the FBI's investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails of classified information. Though the investigation came to nothing, Comey's bombshell may have helped torpedo Clinton, the main wing's candidate of choice. It drew howls of outrage from Democratic Party main-wingers like Nancy Pelosi and Charles Schumer. Now, however, these same politicians are hailing Comey as a martyr and calling his firing a "Nixonian" coverup (Intercept 5/9). Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, joined a Washington protest to demand appointment of a special counsel (Mother Jones 5/10). Some Democrats and media outlets are even calling for Trump's impeachment.

This is a message to Trump and the entire political class that their service is always conditional. They can be replaced if they do not serve their ruling-class masters appropriately.

Mueller, the Hammer to Bring Trump into Line

When it came time for the Justice Department to name a special counsel, Robert Mueller was the perfect choice to bridge the partisan divide and help unify the main-wing bosses. Mueller was appointed FBI director days before the September 11 attacks in 2001. He served under both Democrat Obama and Republican George W. Bush, and served them well:

Mueller is as straight an arrow as they come. He is the longest serving FBI director since J. Edgar Hoover himself and certainly the most influential. He took the FBI from a agency primarily focused on law enforcement and after-the-fact prosecutions and investigations into, really, what is a global intelligence agency deeply focused on counterespionage and counterterrorism cases... (Biographer Garret Graff on NPR, 5/17).

No friend of workers, Mueller can be a credible mediator for disagreements within the ruling class. For as long as they can, the bosses will use the legal system to solve their growing problems. Until they can't.

Towing the Line of the Grand Chessboard

The first two stops of Trump's inaugural overseas trip were Saudi Arabia and Israel, both staunch U.S. allies that reflect the deteriorating position of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East and the world. The U.S. State Department has known for years that Saudi Arabia has provided "clandestine financial and logistic support to Isis and other radical groups in the region" (Independent, 10/14/16). Israel, meanwhile, is widely hated for its ever-expanding West Bank occupation and apartheid treatment of Palestinians. During the Obama years, the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, talked openly of defying U.S. wishes in the region. While Netanyahu has softened his stance since Trump's victory, Israel remains a questionable ally in a period of intensifying pressure on U.S. imperialist aims.

Different Sides, All Capitalist

Regardless of who comes out on top in this struggle among bosses, workers will lose. While Trump's open fascism is a threat to the international working class, the gravest mistake we can make is to choose sides in this battle. We cannot support Democratic politicians in their move against Trump, whether they're mainstream leaders like Schumer and Pelosi or liberal fake "outsiders" like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. The Democrats also represent the forces of war and fascism. If anything, they are even more danger-

FBI: Myth & Reality

The glorification of James Comey and Robert Mueller is a naked attempt to win the working class to support the FBI, a ruling-class institution, as a lesser capitalist evil. But the FBI's racist history makes it clear that this is a deadly proposition:

- Contrary to Hollywood's image of the heroic FBI rooting out the Ku Klux Klan in the South (as portrayed in the movie, *Mississippi Burning*), nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, the FBI focused on smashing local militant anti-racist groups (such as Deacons for Defense) as well as national organizations, from SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) to the Black Panthers.
- The FBI established COINTELPRO, a counter-intelligence program, in an effort to crush both the Communist Party USA and the growing civil rights movement. After the 1963 March on Washington, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover singled out Martin Luther King, Jr. as a primary target. COINTELPRO also targeted Malcom X (Manning Marable, *A Life of Reinvention*). It has been well documented that the FBI conspired to destroy the Black Panther Party (In These Times, 12/4/13).
- The FBI played a crucial role in aiding HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee) during the anti-communist crusades of the 1950s. From 1946 to 1952, the FBI doubled its number of agents. In 1951, it launched a secret "Responsibilities Program" that spied on teachers and lawyers, among others. Its most vicious attacks were reserved for Black communists like Paul Robeson.

In short, let us expose the FBI for what it is: a ruthless agent of capitalist dictatorship.

ous than Trump and his ilk, because they are better able to deceive and mislead honest, anti-racist workers.

The only path away from these imperialist misleaders is the path to Progressive Labor Party and communist revolution. Our Party and our paper, CHALLENGE, have consistently attacked politicians and media of all strains for what they are: agents of capitalism. A PLP of millions—leading a working class of billions—will sweep them all away.✊

Commencement Day: Worker-Student Alliance Defies Yale Bosses

NEW HAVEN, CT, May 22 —It was Yale's graduation day. Three thousand workers and students—multiracial, young and old, men and women—marched together through the streets of New Haven in support of Yale graduate student teachers who are waging a determined struggle for union recognition and their first contract. Thousands of Yale undergraduates and their parents witnessed a demonstration of class solidarity, as teamsters and steel workers, laborers and communication workers, K-12 teachers and professors, as well as hundreds of graduate students and undergraduates marched toward the commencement proceedings wearing bright orange t-shirts and chanting loudly. I was marching near a contingent of 100 casino and restaurant workers who came all the way from Atlantic City to support the Yale grad students.

Hunger Strike for Unionization

In the weeks leading up to the march, eight grad students conducted a hunger strike in front of the administration building, while another 23 were arrested in civil disobedience sit-ins that shut down busy intersections in New Haven. The union has made this fight a social justice campaign. It is not just for a contract that raises pay and benefits. They want a grievance mechanism for gender discrimination complaints and they have received support from many undergraduates, professors, campus workers and community members.

A local Black minister spoke at the ending rally and recounted the campaign his church led against racist unemployment, demanding that Yale hire 1,000 members of the community, which is more than half Black and Latino, and where a quarter of the population lives in poverty. He stressed how the graduate stu-

dent union provided strong support for that anti-racist campaign and now he and members of the community are happily returning that solidarity. This is a lesson for faculty unions everywhere; support community struggle against racist conditions such as high unemployment and mass incarceration, and, in return, the community will support your struggle for better pay and benefits.

Yale sits on a \$25 billion endowment fund, yet is refusing to negotiate with the grad students' union, Local 33 of UNITE HERE. They prefer to wait until their billionaire buddy Donald Trump appoints new people to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), who will reverse previous NLRB decisions in favor of graduate assistant unionization.

At the commencement, when the wealthy trustees who run Yale marched by in their black robes, thousands of us sang "We Shall Overcome" to let them know we'll continue the struggle. But that isn't enough. The Yale Board of Directors is composed of owners of Wall Street firms and major corporations. They amassed their fortunes from the exploitation of workers in the U.S. and abroad. So it's not surprising that they show



contempt for workers at the university. Yale has trained generations of major figures in the U.S. ruling class, including the CEOs of companies like Boeing, the Blackstone Group, FedEx, and Time Warner, and major political figures (and war criminals) like the two President Bushes, Dick Cheney, and Bill and Hillary Clinton.

As these graduate student-teachers fight for their union, they should expose the whole capitalist system that Yale and their millionaire and billionaire Directors represent. Help the Progressive Labor Party destroy this profit system based on class exploitation, racism, sexism and imperialist war, and build a communist movement that takes power away from the Yale trustees and the entire ruling class and puts it in the hands of working people, where it belongs. ☺

Good Riddance to Zbigniew Brzezinski

Chief Architect of U.S. Imperialism's Reign of Terror

On May 26, Zbigniew Brzezinski (89), a major architect of U.S. imperialism and servant of the U.S. bosses, finally died. While history is made by the masses and outside the sole influence of just one person, Brzezinski played a disproportionately large individual role in helping shape the capitalist reign of terror we live in today.

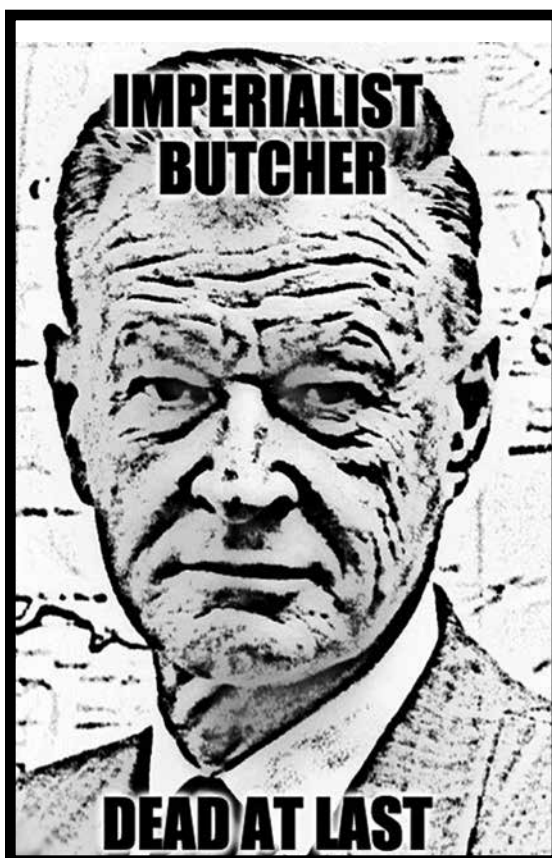
Zbigniew Brzezinski was a professor at Columbia University in the late 1960s when, during a Progressive Labor Party-led student strike, he called for the arrest, trial and incarceration of the leadership of 1968 campus strikes—and "[i]f that leadership cannot be liquidated at least it can be expelled from the country." (NY Times 5/26). Brzezinski shared the U.S. capitalist class's concern for the fate of their empire, and eagerly offered his intellectual services to them.

Many of the student leaders to whom he referred were members of PLP. PLP remains proud to have been the publicly stated enemy of this arch-imperialist butcher!

Vietnam: Blow to U.S. Imperialism

Many readers of CHALLENGE have only known a world in which U.S. imperialism has waged perpetual war in the Middle East. They are too young to remember U.S. imperialism's vicious assault on—and defeat at the hands of—the working people of Vietnam.

U.S. imperialism's defeat in Vietnam was a major turning point, and changed the course of world history. Never again would U.S. imperialism adopt all out war, as waged there and in Korea. A "Vietnam syndrome" has forced US imperialism to wage war without exposing ground troops to mass casualties. Brzezinski led the charge into a new era, one where CIA operatives, air power and special operations troops wreak havoc in the furtherance of the interests of U.S. capital.



The U.S. bosses recognized Brzezinski's usefulness in working out U.S. imperialist policies, despite these constraints, when he joined the powerful Rockefeller-backed Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Under Democratic president Jimmy Carter, Brzezinski was elevated to a top position as National Security Adviser. Brzezinski articulated the strategic imperative that has guided U.S. imperialism in our lifetime—control the oil reserves of the Persian Gulf region, part of a larger worldwide "grand chessboard" that guides U.S. imperialism to this day.

Brzezinski's boss made this policy plain as day

with his "Carter Doctrine" of 1980:

Let our position be absolutely clear: An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force.

For the capitalists, who see everything in terms of maximizing profit and minimizing costs, oil is by far the cheapest energy source to industrialize and fuel a military. Control of the Middle East means control of the world. He has advised and at times publicly criticized all presidents since Carter, including Barack Obama and most recently Donald Trump, for the absence of any coherent "doctrine" to guide U.S. imperialism (NYT 2/20).

Brzezinski, then, has been an active architect of U.S. imperialist slaughter since 1980. This period of time, which includes the complete reversal of the workers' revolutions in both Russia and China, has seen U.S. capitalism's lethal grip extend to every corner of the globe.

Godfather of the Mujahideen, al-Qaeda, and ISIS

An outstanding example of imperialist short-sightedness and unintended consequences comes from Carter's support for the brutal anti-Soviet "mujahideen" forces in Afghanistan.

In 1978, the U.S. bosses, along with the bosses of Pakistan, began secretly funding and recruiting fascist Muslim religious extremists in Afghanistan. They called themselves the "mujahideen," perverting another religious term for "personal struggle" to justify fascist beliefs. The goal was to overthrow the popular pro-communist government of the

Continued on page 7

LETTERS

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

Women Defy Prez, Demand a Sanctuary Campus

Four women took the microphone from the president of our university at a public service awards event. We took the microphone so that we could read our demands that our university be a sanctuary campus. The president looked so irritated and flustered when we did it! We told the crowd that since the president was so keen on honoring commitments to public service, we wanted to give him the chance to make his own commitment to truly serve immigrant communities by committing to our demands. We then read our demands and got as far as we could until they grabbed the microphone back. Originally, the president tried to take it back from me and I kept my grip firm. I told him, "I'm not finished yet," and kept reading. People who saw the video later laughed at how powerless and sad the president looked. Then, another woman started a tug of war over the microphone and tried taking my phone too. She looked so angry and frustrated and the administration revealed how little they care.

The four women who took the mic felt so empowered that we did it; it was truly a wonderful experience. People in the crowd thanked us for doing it. When the president responded to us in his speech, he said that, "As an immigrant from Canada, I understand immigration." There were audible groans in the audience. Doing this has helped us feel more powerful and more courageous for future actions, and revealed administration for the goons that they are. We are excited to keep up the fight!

★★★★★

May Day Reflections: Celebrations, Militancy, and a Red Promise

The following is a compilation of reflections of the New York City May Day from Bronx college comrades and friends.

The best aspect of May Day this year was that on our bus from the Bronx, more than half of the people were on their way to their first May Day march. Nearly half a bus of people who got to see PLP's militancy, discipline, enthusiasm for the fight ahead. Most importantly, they got to see our vision of multi-racial unity and working class solidarity!

★

May Day was a really good day. It was an especially proud day for me. It was one of the days of the year where I can fight for what I believe, communism. Communism is not just a way of changing the country, but also changing the whole world. I want to be part of fighting back to change the world. May Day is the day to fight for what's right and bring awareness to many people who may have lost hope and encourage them to fight alongside us.

★

This was my second May Day and it was incredible to have it on the 100th anniversary of one of the most important events in world history, as well as in my own cultural heritage: the Bolshevik Revolution! The day was joyous, catching up with comrades, soaking up some sun, and marching through the streets getting a taste of what it would feel like to walk in a world that belongs to us, the workers. My mother emigrated from the Soviet Union 27 years ago to escape "the horrors of communism" in exchange for he "American dream." Now she slaves 50 hours a week, doubting if she will be able to retire. Celebrating May Day rejuvenated my sense of hope in working-class unity, and I am excited for another year of fighting the terror that is capitalism!

★

This was a very special May Day for me. I was very excited about so many new students and workers joining the march. I think the spirit was amazing, as we followed the sound truck to the chants that we did along with the music. All of Flatbush was vibrant and lively,

CORRECTION

The DC Metro article (5/31) left the incorrect and conclusive impression that Local 689 can gain the power to defend and preserve the interest of the working class. There is no substitute for communist revolution, no matter how strong the union.

and I watched as workers and customers came out of the shops and stores. It had a very celebratory feel, but also militancy and a promise. The working class is facing so many attacks, and knows this spirit will help us to continue to fight back and organize at City University of New York!

★★★★★

Coal Miners, Workers in Japan, & the Right to be Lazy

Donald Trump, the lump, won by a landslide in many areas of the coal fields in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, but he is no friend of the coal miners. He claims that he will stop the war on coal, but actually he is continuing the war on coal miners.

Following the instructions of far right, white nationalist Steve Bannon, Trump has attempted to pawn himself off as the champion of workers. But he has never supported any workers, especially coal miners. He is a wealthy capitalist who has exploited workers all over the globe. He did nothing for the coal miners during their Great Coal Strike of 1978 or during the mine shutdowns in the 1980's while his hero Reagan was President. He was too busy making money while bankrupting his casinos and screwing workers and small business subcontractors. Meanwhile, today, health insurance for retired miners was barely extended by Congress and their pensions are still not covered.

Of course, it will be up to the miners themselves to fight for pensions, jobs and safety in the mines. Neither Trump, or any capitalist politician, cares about the workers. Better conditions for the working class will only come about through struggle and eventually with an egalitarian, communist revolution that will put all coal bosses and capitalist billionaires out of business for all times.

Meanwhile in Japan workers are literally working themselves to death. Many work eighty hours of overtime a month, averaging sixty hours a week. Capitalism strikes again! In the late 1800's, Karl Marx's son-in-law, Paul Lafarge, wrote a tract titled "The Right to be Lazy." It dealt with the ruthless, capitalist exploitation that totally consumed worker's lives. Workers got no rest and could not develop in areas of culture, sports, education, philosophy, etc.

Under capitalism, labor saving machinery and automation are used to reduce the number of workers causing unemployment. In an egalitarian, communist society this type of machinery would shorten the workweek for workers and eliminate unsafe working conditions.

Then being "lazy" would open the doors for workers to develop in other ways. As one Marxist put it, workers could become Shakespeares or Beethovens. Songs could be composed, poems and plays could be written, and some might pursue acting or philosophy. Educa-

tion would be a lifelong endeavor and alienated labor would vanish.

The situation in Japan is alarming. This is another reason to uproot capitalism ASAP. Interestingly there is a sizable reformist 'communist' party in Japan, but it is doing nothing to bring about a genuine worker's revolution. Similarly, in the U. S. there is an epidemic of workers dying from drug abuse. It is the decadent capitalist system that is at the root of the problem and the dying will continue as long as the capitalists continue to suck the life out of the workers.

★★★★★

The Impetus for Civil Rights Movement

Continued from page 8

there were few public demonstrations against racism in the South or North as anyone, Black or white, who stood up against Jim Crow, housing or school segregation was labeled a communist and subject to being harassed or attacked by the FBI.

But the working class continued to fight and the struggle against racism eventually focused on the Jim Crow laws that segregated all forms of life in the South. The U.S. bosses were particularly vulnerable to the fight against Jim Crow laws. The German Nazis had used the laws as a model for setting up their fascist system "[Hitler in Main Kampf] describes the United States as 'the one state' that had made headway toward what he regarded as a healthy and utterly necessary racist regime" (NY Times 5/22). Black soldiers returning from the war were increasingly unwilling to tolerate fascism at home after fighting it in Europe.

Many Black workers began to resist legal segregation and Alabama civil rights leaders decided it was time to take mass action against the laws.

In 1955, Rosa Parks was asked to make a stand that would spark the campaign. When she refused to get out of her seat setting off the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Black working class of Montgomery, experienced by the communist-led fight to defend the Scottsboro Boys and the many other battles against racism, was prepared to fight and that they did.☺

Manchester

Continued from page 4

the French, carve up what is today the Middle East after World War I as a divide-and-conquer strategy, the bosses have used and bred reactionary and armed Muslim groups to back their imperialist oil interests. (See Brzezinski obituary, page 5). UK Secretary of the War Cabinet Maurice Hankey in 1918 viewed control of oil supplies in the region to be "a first class British war aim."

For example, the UK funded the Mujaheddin as proxy fighters. "It resulted in the spawning of al-Qa'ida, the spread of international terrorism, and the empowering of ISI, the Pakistani secret police, who became their sponsors. ...[T]he lesser known by-products [are] the dispatch of Afghan Islamist veterans, with the connivance of Britain and the US, to the wars in the Balkans and the former Soviet republics in central Asia, and ethnic Muslim areas of China." (The Independent, 7/29/2010).

In Libya, a joint effort on the British, French, and U.S. imperialists via NATO, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton engineered a U.S. invasion in 2011. The massive bombing and missile raids were designed to consolidate oil deals the imperialist powers had made with the unreliable Muammar Qaddafi and each other. The British admit their role "aided the rise of the Islamic State in North Africa" (9/14/16). They also aided in displacing, starving, and terrorizing hundreds of thou-

sands of families.

An Opening for Fascism

The Manchester attack will spur even greater efforts from bosses on all sides to impose fascism on the working class as they prepare for wider imperialist wars. Increasing racism and capitalist state terror, and foster cross-class collaboration with police forces, are symptoms of rising fascism.

The Daily Telegraph columnist Allison Pearson tweeted, "We need a State of Emergency as France has. We need internment of thousands of terror suspects now to protect our children" (NY Times, 5/23). Some called for those suspected to be electronically tagged. The Economist called for an "iron-willed application of the law" (5/27).

Working-Class Response

In Manchester, residents opened up their homes to those stranded, taxi drivers gave free rides, and restaurants sent donations to those still searching for loved ones. While the bosses will respond with cynical ploy to build allegiance to its exploitative system, the working class responds with collectivity and antiracism.

The international working class still holds all the cards, including the potential to overthrow the entire murderous capitalist system. No amount of divisions can keep the working class from ultimately taking power. No lesser-evil politician or government can liberate our class. Progressive Labor Party aims to build communism. We will construct a world free of terrorism, racism and sexism.☺

Brzezinski, Imperialist Architect Dead At Last!

Continued from page 5

People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). Brzezinski hoped to "give the Soviet Union its Vietnam" (CHALLENGE, 9/17/08). Secretly supporting the mujahideen with an estimated \$40 billion U.S. dollars, Brzezinski himself traveled to Pakistan in 1979, addressing the mujahideen training camps, stating "your cause is right and God is on your side" (The Nation, 2/15/99; BBC documentary "Cold War: Soldiers of God," 5/8/12).

With Carter, Brzezinski and later U.S. covert support, the Afghan mujahideen recruited from around the world, including rich Saudi playboy Osama bin-Laden, who comes from one of Saudi Arabia's most powerful families. The PDPA government survived the Soviet collapse until it was overthrown by a new generation of mujahideen fighters taking power: the "Taliban" (Pashto for "students," short for "students of the mujahideen"). The U.S., Pakistani, and Saudi funding ensured the Taliban "students" came of age in mujahideen training camps, who recruited among thousands of young refugees displaced by war. The networks of Arab mujahideen fighters founded allied groups like "al-Qaeda" (Arabic for "foundation," referring to their fundamentalist interpretation of Islam).

In the early 1990s, following the first U.S. invasion of Iraq and feeling betrayed by his former

U.S. employers for stationing soldiers in Saudi Arabia, Osama bin-Laden and his al-Qaeda declared war on the United States. This culminated in terrorist attacks around the world, including the two major attacks on New York City, in 1993 and 2001. In 1998, Brzezinski downplayed his terrorist creation as "some stirred-up Muslims" and their global threat as "nonsense" (Counterpunch, 1/15/98). Following the second U.S. invasion of Iraq, al-Qaeda took advantage of Iraq's political vacuum and, in 2011, spread to Syria. In 2013, a faction split, calling itself the "Islamic State," often called "ISIL" or "ISIS."

Butcher Brzezinski has left two other deep legacies: anti-Muslim racism and the mass displacement of workers. Much of the vicious anti-Muslim racism spawned by the U.S. state, domestically and globally, is in part thanks to him, as is the refugee crisis born out of imperialist wars.

Brzezinski's World: Imperialist Slaughterhouse

The period since 1990 has been a trial by fire as U.S. imperialism ravages the Middle East through war and war-induced disease and dislocation. For the entire African continent, the period has been utterly devastating as rival imperialist powers back genocidal regimes to control minerals and resources. The world Brzezinski worked toward, has seen its sole remaining superpower, the U.S., back all sides in resource-rich Congo, where the

largest armed conflict since World War II rages. The "free market" that reigns supreme allowed capitalist pharmaceutical corporations to stand idly by while HIV/AIDS ran rampant killing twenty seven million workers to date (aids.org; who.net) with the majority of these deaths being preventable. This same "free" market has starved millions more as arable African farmland is sown with crops for export in pursuit of maximum profit.

Throughout Zbigniew Brzezinski's unfortunately long life, he served U.S. imperialism faithfully, his final act helping Barack Obama craft his murderous policies to try reversing U.S. imperialism's relative decline. Here was someone dedicated to anti-communism and imperialism, who lived to see Soviet imperialism vanquished and Chinese imperialism take its place as the main rival of the U.S., and who ultimately escaped working class justice. The same will not be true of the capitalist class he worked so hard to protect.

It remains for us to make good on the mortal threat Brzezinski perceived, in embryonic form, at Columbia in 1968 when he confronted the PLP-led student strike: the defeat of U.S. imperialism by powerful new communist movement, one dedicated to learning from the mistakes of past revolutionaries, winning state power and expanding the dictatorship of the proletariat until capitalism is defeated once and for all.☺



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

Obama's \$400,000 speaking fee exposes his disregard for racial justice

GW, 5/12 — Obama's speaking fees tell the real story. His mission was never racial or economic justice. He is cashing in just like the Bush and Clinton dynasties....

Obama's outrageous \$400,000 fee for speaking at a healthcare conference organized by the Wall Street firm Cantor Fitzgerald, [believes]...a fantasy that...the first black president was going to use his considerable powers...to help the poor, who are disproportionately black.

That Obama's project was or ever would be racial and economic justice was always a dream — and...we [should] recognize Obama for who he is and what he does....

...[No one]...should earn \$400,000 an hour... [but we need] much more concern with...why black families would need to work 228 years to build the wealth of white families; why the median wealth of single black women is \$5 and how the economic crash of 2008 was an apocalyptic theft of wealth from black homeowners to Wall Street....

The 2009 bailout, and Obama's failure to pursue any significant prosecutions related to it, should have taught us that racial economic justice just wasn't Obama's main priority....

Instead it seems like Obama will spend his post-presidency hauling in money as the Clintons have....

The high-paid speeches were a sign that Obama's post-presidency will, like his presidency was, be Democratic business as usual. And that means

not radically altering the racial injustices of American economics.

U.S. airstrikes killing thousands of innocent civilians

NYT, 5/26 — Data compiled by Airwars, a non-profit group that tracks reports of civilian deaths in Iraq and Syria...found that at least 3,100 civilians were killed in American-led airstrikes from August 2014 to March 2017....

On March 17, an American airstrike destroyed a building in the Jidideh neighborhood of Mosul, killing more than a hundred civilians who were inside....one of the deadliest American airstrikes ever in Iraq.

Racist Confederacy model for Hitler's Nazis

NYT, 5/22 — The white supremacist protest... over a plan to remove a statue of Robert E. Lee, the Confederate general...drew on a toxic symbol of the Third Reich....

...Wielding torches in a protest staged by night...nodded to the Nazi rallies held during the 1930s at Nuremberg....chanting "blood and soil," a Nazi-era slogan that connected German ethnic purity to...the "master race...."

The protest all celebrated the intimate connection between Nazi-era rule in Germany and Jim Crow-era rule in the United States....

Hitler...in "Mein Kampf"...describes the United States as "the one state" that had made headway toward what he regarded as a healthy and utterly necessary racist regime....The Nazis were keenly focused on Jim Crow segregation laws, statutes that criminalized interracial marriage and other policies that created second-class citizenship in the United States....

...German propagandists sought to normalize the Nazi agenda domestically by putting forth the United States as a model. They assured the German people that Americans had "racist politics and policies," just as German did, including

"special laws directed against Negroes...Embracing the necessity of lynching, one propagandist wrote: "What is lynch justice, if not the natural resistance of the Volk to an alien race that is attempting to gain the upper hand?"

"Hitler's American Model" [by Yale legal scholar James Whitman] shows that homegrown American racism played a role in the notorious Nuremberg Laws of 1935, which deprived "non-Aryans" of citizenship and the right to marry "true" Germans....[which] "signaled the full-scale creation of a racist state in Germany on the road to the Holocaust."

Nazism and the tradition of American white supremacy that is memorialize in monuments throughout the South are the fruit of the same poisonous tree....The Confederate flag can legitimately be seen as an alternate version of the Nazi emblem....

...One still sees both Nazi emblems and Confederate flags openly embracing the meanings of both.

Student strike slams tuition hike

NYT, 5/26 — The gates of the University of Puerto Rico are chained shut and festooned with protest signs and students' desks...[in] a school that students have shut down for nearly two months....

...To raise revenue and cut costs, the administration drafted a plan to increase tuition....

For some students that was too much. "Zero cuts" and "zero tuition increases" became the mantra of the student body.

"The problem isn't raising the tuition, it's raising the tuition to pay bondholders," said...a spokeswoman for the student committee. "If... you are going to raise tuition so you can offer more courses, that's different. These cuts are not to improve, they are to impoverish."

BLACK AND RED, UNTOLD HISTORY PART II

IMPETUS FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Ruling-class historians have segregated the fight against racism and the fight for an egalitarian system, communism. In reality, the two were connected like flesh and bone. Many antiracist struggles were led by, initiated by, or were fought with communists and communist-influenced organizations. Many Black fighters were also dedicated communists and pro-communists of their time.

In turn, the bosses have used anti-communism as a tool to terrorize and divide antiracist fightback. Regardless of communist affiliation, anyone who fought racism was at risk of being redbaited. Why? 1) The ruling class understands the natural relationship between antiracism and communism, and 2) Multiracial unity threatens the very racist system the bosses "work so hard" to maintain.

This series aims to reunite the history of communism with antiracism. Part I explored how the fight to free Scottsboro Boys was ignited by the International Labor Defense of the Communist Party. See Robin D.G. Kelley's book *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists during the Great Depression* to find out more.

The following piece excerpts from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in the essay, "The Civil Rights Movement" by researcher Davarian L. Baldwin at Trinity College.

The Civil Rights Movement was a decades-long mass uprising of Black and white workers and students against the most open forms of racism in the U.S. Its impetus was the growing international communist movement fresh off the defeat of fascism in Europe and quickly growing in China, Africa and around the world, combined with the growing resistance to racism by the Black workers in the U.S.

The U.S. ruling class tried to shut down the mass antiracist fightback by using anti-communism to divide and terrorize the movement. In the period right after World War II, the Soviet Union was admired by workers around the world, including in the U.S., for defeating the Nazi war machine. The workers-led society in the Soviet Union stood in stark contrast to the legal segregation workers faced in the U.S.

Trained by CP, Became Civil Rights Leaders

While the racist Jim Crow laws in the South were well known, segregation cut across the country. Black workers who moved to northern cities to look for jobs faced racism in looking for homes and on the job as well.

Between 1940 and 1960 the Great Migration brought over six million African Americans to industrial centers in the urban North and West, where migrants were met with new forms of racial containment. They were often restricted to domestic and retail service work. Those who found industrial employment were kept out of labor unions (Baldwin).

The communist movement had been heavily involved in the fight against racism in the South since around 1930 and had built up a mass movement that included Black and white workers and students. The struggle to defend the Scottsboro Boys, nine young Black men wrongly accused of raping two white women, galvanized the anti-racist movement (see CHALLENGE, 5/31). This communist-led struggle brought thousand of Black and white workers into organizations that fought racism and trained many of the leaders of the civil rights movement.

If you look at all the...auxiliary organizations[of the Communist Party in Alabama], the International Labor Defense,



campaign to desegregate schools in 1960s

which focused on civil rights issues, they had up to 2,000. The Sharecroppers Union had up to 12,000. You had the International Workers Order. You had the League of Young Southerners. You had the Southern Negro Youth Congress. [In total], it touched the lives easily of 20,000 people.

There were many people who were trained in the Communist Party who went on to become Civil Rights activists [including] Rosa Parks...some of her first political activities were around the Scottsboro case...She never joined the party, but as a young woman, she and her husband, in fact, attended some of the meetings...the infrastructure that was laid forward that becomes the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, was laid in many ways, not entirely, by the Communist Party (Robin Kelly on WNYC Radio 2/16/2010).

WW II and After: Communist Fighters Under Attack

The movement against racism that grew in the 1930s didn't stop during World War II.

The United States entered the wartime world as the self-professed face of democracy, but African Americans began to make links between Nazi racism, European imperialism, and American [racism].

Veteran activist and president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) A. Philip Randolph threatened to lead a 100,000-person March on Washington Movement (MOWM) in November 1941 if wartime production was not desegregated...

Between 1942 and 1945 industrial centers, military camps, and port cities, including Detroit, New York, and Los Angeles, exploded with race riots. Ongoing...attempts to constrain black life erupted in violent riots in

more than forty cities (Baldwin).

After the war, the U.S. bosses came under increasing pressure as the Soviet Union and the international communist movement exposed the hypocrisy of U.S. capitalism, describing itself as a pillar of "democracy" while denying even the most basic freedom to Black citizens.

Black communists played a leading role in exposing U.S. racism to the world and came under attack as well. Paul Robeson was a communist actor, singer, athlete and political activist. He was a man of international renown and used it to build the movement for workers' power and the fight against racism. Robeson and other communists came under extreme attack by the U.S. bosses who were terrified of the multi-racial fight against racism

In 1947 W. E. B. Du Bois placed the grievances of African Americans before the newly formed United Nations in his famous "Appeal to the World" address...singer and activist Paul Robeson signed a U.S.S.R. petition to the United Nations, "We Charge Genocide," documenting a series of human rights abuses against African Americans. Communist activist Claudia Jones organized in Harlem for jobs, housing, and humane immigration policies. Both Robeson's and Du Bois's passports were revoked until 1958 while the Trinidadian [Claudia] Jones was deported to Britain. In the Cold War context, black struggles for freedom were largely denounced as un-American (Baldwin).

The bosses' anti-communist McCarthyism campaign was an attempt to strangle the communist movement in the U.S. and stop the fight against racism. It terrified many people. Leading fighters were driven underground, out of the country and some were put in jail. For a while,

Continued on page 6

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