

The next issue of CHALLENGE will appear in three weeks, after which we will resume our regular biweekly schedule.

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CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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Justice for Shantel and Kimani

A FULL-COURT PRESS AGAINST RACISM



BROOKLYN, NY, AUGUST 3—The seventh annual Hoops for Justice basketball tournament brought together over a hundred workers and youth to honor the memory of Shantel Davis (23) and Kimani Gray (16), two Black youth murdered by the kkkops. The event was organized by the Justice for Shantel and Beyond Committee, of which Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been a part.

Hoops for Justice is a special event because

each year a multiracial, multigenerational group youth, workers, and comrades come together to play basketball, eat, distribute CHALLENGE, prizes and commemorate Shantel and Kimani with balloons. It's the perfect blend of fun and working class fightback!

More importantly, Hoops for Justice sends the message that we refuse to forget our working-class sisters and brothers, whose lives were robbed by racist police violence. PLP will carry

the torch of justice forward to the only solution that can put a stop to racist cop murders: communist revolution.

**Building workers solidarity
one hoop at a time**

During the fast-paced games players waiting to compete looked through CHALLENGE as the announcer mixed in play-calling with politi-

Continued on page 3

★ **EDITORIAL** *Hong Kong Turmoil: workers must reject nationalism...p2*

★ **CHICAGO** *Mentally ill workers need communism not captivity...p3*

★ **WASHINGTON D.C** *Retirees support immigrant workers, fights nationalism..p5*

★ **KASHMIR** *India spreads volatility in the region ...p5*

★ **COMMUNIST HISTORY** *Anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre...p 6*

★ **ANALYSIS** *U.S. state terrorism spawns individual terrorists...p8*

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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Editorial

Hong Kong turmoil

Workers must reject nationalism

For over two months, mass protests have made Hong Kong a new flashpoint in the escalating fight between U.S. market capitalism and Chinese state capitalism. Workers in Hong Kong and everywhere must refuse to be taken in by either set of imperialist exploiters. All bosses settle their disputes by shedding rivers of our class’s blood. The intensifying U.S.-versus-China trade war will inevitably give rise to armed conflict and an eventual third world war.

Images of masses of people attacking the cops and shutting down a center of global finance may seem inspiring. But in assessing any resistance movement, we need to look beyond appearances to its political essence. At their core, the Hong Kong protests are a reactionary, anti-worker movement. They serve the interests of local billionaires in a battle to resist control by the mainland Chinese capitalists and their organized crime syndicate, the once-revolutionary Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Hong Kong, exploiters’ paradise

In 1842, after feudal China’s loss to British capitalist narco-traffickers in the First Opium War, the island of Hong Kong was absorbed into a rising British Empire. It soon became a headquarters for Western imperialists and their local henchmen bent on sucking worker-generated wealth out of Asia.

In 1949, after the once-revolutionary CCP defeated the U.S.-backed fascist Kuomintang in a bitter civil war, Hong Kong remained a British colony and a crucial outpost of finance capital. By the 1970s, the Chinese capitalist bosses—a new “red bourgeoisie”—smashed the Cultural Revolution, a mass movement to restore the fight for communism. In 1997, these fake-left rulers agreed to allow independent finance capitalism to persist in Hong Kong for at least another 50 years: the “one country, two systems” deal.

On August 5, workers called for a general strike with chants of “Restore Hong Kong, Revolution of our times!” Elements of the Hong Kong ruling class are making a bid for permanent autonomy, which the mainland Chinese ruling class will never accept. For the “Wall Street of the East,” stakes are high. Hong Kong features “[r]elatively low taxes, a highly developed financial system, light regulation....Most of the world’s major banks and multinational firms maintain regional headquarters in the city....” (Council of Foreign Relations, 6/19). Hong Kong is the key hub for investment for Chinese companies, giving them “access to global capital markets for bond and loan financing” (Economist, 10/1/14).

Even as Shanghai and Beijing emerge as new financial capitals, Hong Kong remains of huge importance for China’s rulers’ bid to dominate the global profit system. They plan to integrate Hong Kong and neighboring Guangdong Province into a Greater Bay Area project “that could rival the San Francisco Bay or Tokyo Bay areas, ...Echoing the connectivity narrative of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, the Greater Bay would constitute a population of more than seventy million people and a \$1.5 trillion economy” (CFR, 6/10). China’s absorption of Hong Kong would spell doom for independent capitalists who have flourished under “one country, two systems.” These are the forces behind this summer’s turmoil.

“Democracy,” exploiters’ tool

The average resident of Hong Kong has a living space the size of a parking spot; hundreds of thousands of poorer workers split such a space among three people (New York Times, 7/22). But instead of fighting the brutal inequalities of the capitalist system, protesters have been infected by anti-mainland racism. They target tourists with chants of “uncivilized” and “invaders,” and intimidate elderly mainland women at their morning outdoor exercises (NYT, 7/13).

From Xinjiang to Hong Kong to Taiwan, China’s



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ruling class faces growing internal challenges to its authority. The turmoil in Hong Kong today echoes the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising, another “pro-democracy” movement that favored more liberal, entrepreneurial, Western-style capitalism. In a period of intensifying inter-imperialist rivalry and rising fascism, China’s ruling class can’t afford to allow “two systems” much longer. Hong Kong’s “leaderless” mass action, loudly hailed in the U.S. bosses’ media, is a mask for the direct involvement of U.S. imperialism.

Among the 40-odd NGOs backing the Hong Kong protests is a thinly-veiled CIA operation, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). As its founders openly admitted early on: “A lot of what we do today was done covertly by the CIA 25 years ago” (NYT, 6/1/86). Since then, NED has penetrated every “opposition” movement that aligns with the interests of U.S. finance capital, from Russia (1996) to Venezuela (2002) to Haiti (2004). Today it is active in Nicaragua, Ukraine, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong (thegrayzone.com, 6/18). Its influence is apparent in the English-language signage and American flags held by Hong Kong’s protesters.

Nationalism and war

As the trade and currency war between the U.S. and Chinese ruling classes escalates, each side is preparing its population for open conflict. The CCP has given its stamp of approval to Chinese nationalist Hu Xijin and his Global Times newspaper, with its 30 million online readers. Hu’s treatment of the U.S.-China rivalry: “There is a sense of crisis; America cannot prevent China’s rise.” On the trade war: “We are willing to bear some pain to give the U.S. a lesson.” On a future shooting war: “The possibility cannot be ruled out; the danger is greater than before” (NYT, 7/31).

But when it comes to exploitation and slaughter, China can’t compete with Western liberal democracy. From its origins in Greece to its enshrinement in the U.S. Constitution, democracy has been a cover for the rule of a tiny, propertied ruling class. Democracy is the tool of enslavers—chattel slavery then, wage slavery today. Workers will suffer wage slavery and imperialist slaughter until we learn to see democracy for what it is: a dictatorship of the capitalist class. Our task is to replace capitalist democracy with proletarian dictatorship and a system that meets workers’ needs. That system is called communism.

Fight for communism!

Progressive Labor Party is building a revolutionary communist movement to pick up where the Red Guards of China’s Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution left off—and to finish the job of leading the working class forward to the victory of a classless society. The Red Guards were fighting not for democracy but for centralism, for the principle that the highest expression of “majority rule” is the uncompromising commitment to the interests of the international working class. Only a mass communist party can lead this fight. Communist centralism remains our most invaluable tool. Join us!

Mentally ill workers need communism, not captivity



BAY AREA, AUGUST 6—Capitalism is nuts, and it drives us nuts, too—if we don't fight it. After months of strife, the City of San Francisco passed a racist and anti-working class law to curb its homeless population, a problem that was generated by capitalism. The Conservatorship Law will take “guardianship” over the mentally ill homeless people. This law reveals how capitalism is a system of dictatorship. Progressive Labor Party and other fighters are struggling for workers to one day be rulers of our own fortune. Only communism provides the conditions to make that dream possible.

City creates & exacerbates crisis

For a decade, San Francisco hosted billionaire tech firms tax-free, and let the resulting sky-high rents enrich developers while throwing thousands into the streets. The City took \$40 million from mental health and substance abuse treatment budgets. They harassed homeless people sitting on sidewalks or pitching tents against the rain. They had used water trucks to spray on people sleeping in doorways on winter nights. Now, tent encampments are encroaching on rich areas, and the City has suddenly “discovered” there's a crisis in homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse. This crisis was created by the business-as-usual capitalist neglect for working-class needs.

The City's response? A Conservatorship Law. Mentally ill people in the streets will be placed in a locked ward to receive intensive psychiatric care for up to a year. Court hearings could renew these one-year terms indefinitely. “Once you're fully conserved, you lose the right to live alone, choose your doctor, access your bank accounts, own a pet, or communicate with the outside world. The ACLU calls conservatorship ‘the greatest dep-

rivation of civil liberties aside from the death penalty” (SF Weekly, 6/5).

Capitalism is the real crime

Homeless people, seniors, people with disabilities, and protesters—who were focused on ending police violence and mass incarceration—united to fight this Conservatorship Law. The police, not mental health-care workers, oversee this “intervention.” The reform demands are full-service supportive housing and mental health/substance abuse care. Much like how they deal with migration, the bosses' system has turned the workers into criminals. The real crime is capitalism, not the people who try to survive it.

Everyone involved could see that capitalism is the cause of every aspect of this crisis: gentrification, rent gouging, displacement and evictions, police terror and the criminalization of poverty, budget cuts, and a vicious media campaign denying the humanity of capitalism's victims. It was also clear that capitalism is causing people's alienation, and that substance abuse is a horrific coping mechanism.

Communism is the cure

We want communism, where the working class owns and runs society, but also so everyone's potential is recognized and their contribution is encouraged. We will never solve the housing crisis through reform, because its primary goal is opposite of the solution. Capitalism is a system of profit and power that can only come from exploiting and dividing people. Communism is a system of collectivity and power that can only come from putting the needs of the entire working class as the main determinant of societal decisions.

Prevention, not punishment

The protesters' demands include street-

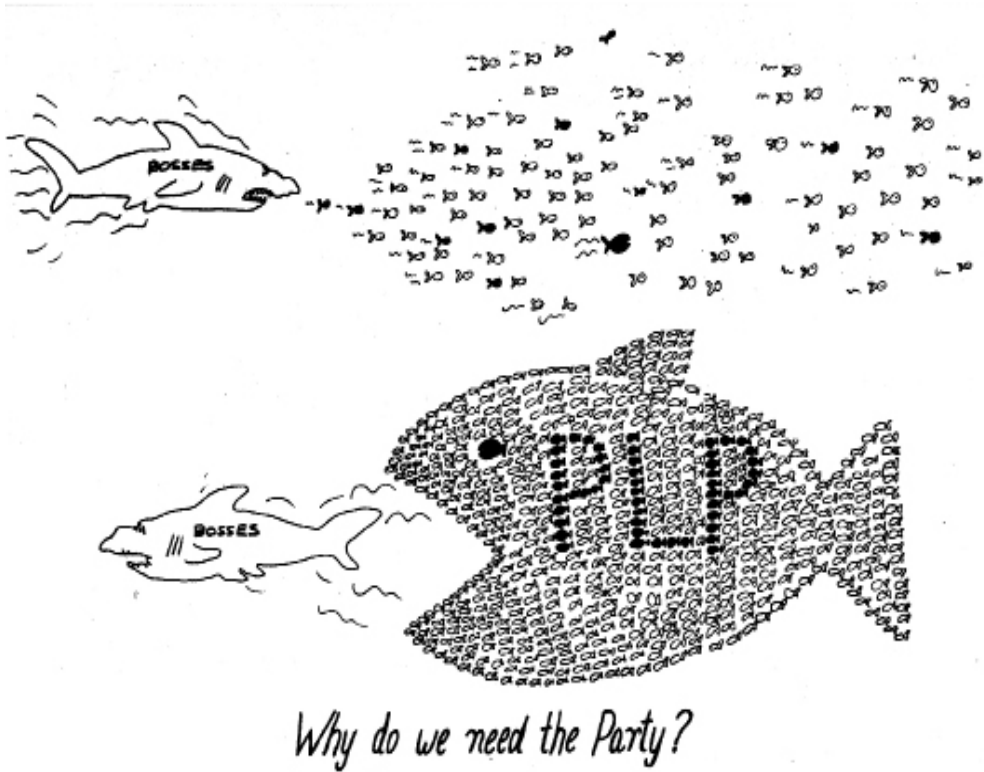
corner micro-clinics, and 24-hour neighborhood clinics staffed with both mental health workers and counselors with personal experience of living on the streets and mental illness, and no cops. These demands are in accord with public health research and recommendations, including the recently passed resolution of the American Public Health Association and the San Francisco Health Commission on treating incarceration as a public health issue. San Francisco has a history of fighting back: protesters and mental and public health practitioners have demanded prevention, not punishment. They defeated building a new jail, which would have been filled with people charged with low-level nuisance “crimes,” allowing the City to sweep the streets with several hundred newly hired cops. They also defeated building a “mental health jail,” a tactic now being used across the country to re-brand the prison-industrial complex to make it seem like people will get treatment.

The City's own data shows that 70 percent of the city's homeless are formerly San Francisco renters. Displaced workers' current mental health stressors are usually the result of living on the street, rather than the cause.

Fight continues

Although the Conservatorship Law passed, we grew in class-consciousness. At first, hardly anyone dared question this law. Now, many do and others will follow us as this battle spreads through California. We are in the middle of a public health and mental health crisis. How do communists and workers meet the challenge of waging these battles with a long-term view? Our challenge is helping our group see communist revolution and working-class power as the answer to these questions.

Limits of the Chicago workweek law



CHICAGO, JULY 25 – On July 24th, the Chicago City Council and newly-elected “progressive” Mayor Lori Lightfoot unanimously passed a law called the “fair workweek” ordinance. It’s already being widely celebrated by many liberal labor groups as a significant reform victory. Similar workers’ schedule reforms are currently in place in other major U.S. cities like New York, San Francisco, and Seattle.

But as the history of class struggle shows, we cannot reform our way to workers’ power. Like the national Fight for \$15 campaign, the capitalist bosses and their misleaders running the unions will always manipulate any reform victory to ultimately serve their interests. We need the worker-run society of communism to guarantee safety, security, and egalitarian working conditions for our class, not another compromise with the bosses.

No fairness for workers under capitalism

The city’s Fair Workweek Ordinance was first proposed around two years ago, as a means to address the unpredictable and unstable job schedules that many service and retail workers face. Many of the workers filling these mostly part-time positions are Black, Latin, and immigrant women workers, so the fact that they have to face such difficulties is another reflection of the racist and sexist nature of capitalism.

The most updated form of the ordinance that passed the city council, mandates that employers provide at least ten days advance notice of employees work schedules, instead of the one or two day notice that a lot of employers now give. It also mandates compensation for workers sent home from work on short notice. The different capitalist industries expected to comply include hotels, day laborers, healthcare facilities, and larger restaurants (chicagofairworkweek.com).

The ordinance was allowed to pass because the retail and service bosses were successful in pressuring the politicians to shape it more and more in their own favor. The final version of the bill excludes any worker making more than \$50,000 per year, which intentionally leaves out many nurses and other healthcare professionals who still have their shifts cancelled at the last minute. Also, those workers who are employed at smaller

businesses and non-profit organizations, not covered by the ordinance, will still face instability in wages and schedules.

But these shortcomings didn’t stop the union misleaders from SEIU and other organizations from singing their praises for the ordinance. They paraded different workers to the city council meetings to provide testimony, but after the bosses were able to chop the ordinance up in their favor, the bosses and politicians alike had very little reason to object to workers speaking out within their “democratic” rights.

This reform, much like the Fight for \$15 campaign, is useful for the unions and the liberal bosses to sell the illusion of progress to the working class. They intentionally use terms like a “fair” workweek or wages even though there can be no equality or fairness between bosses and workers under capitalism. As the communist Karl Marx detailed over 150 years ago, the profit system is based off of the bosses extracting surplus value from the exploitation of our labor. If they paid us for the value of what we actually produce, the system would implode.

The only solution is communist revolution

This is not to say that as workers and communists we should not be participating in reform movements large and small. We must, as these are the struggles where we learn to organize and understand our power as a united working class, and steel ourselves collectively in a period of growing fascism and inter-imperialist rivalry. But it is essential that we are clear among ourselves as workers that these reforms will never resolve the fundamental contradiction between the international working class and the capitalist bosses.

In order to resolve that contradiction – and all the racism, sexism, nationalism, misery, and inequality that comes with it – we need the mass international Progressive Labor Party openly advocating and organizing for a communist revolution that wrenches state power from the bosses and builds a collective egalitarian society based on our needs. When this revolutionary goal is widely grasped and embraced by the masses, capitalism’s days are numbered!

Hoops for Justice builds unity against racism

Continued from page 1

cal consciousness—calling out the racist NYPD and the true nature of capitalism, and the need of young workers to organize for a revolution. As it happens every year, halfway through the tournament, participants gathered on the court to listen to a revolutionary anti-racist song performed by a fellow comrade. Workers sang along calling out the roster of names of workers cut down in high profile murders. We then released white balloons, as a symbol to never forget, all while delivering a message that we also keep fighting the racist violence that robbed their lives.

Confidence in the working class, an antidote to fear

Unfortunately at the tail end of the event, some youth said they spotted a man in a motorcycle who was purportedly flashing a gun tucked in his waist at some of the local youth. For a brief moment it seemed as though the event was soured, and with just two games left to play. Organizers and other workers rushed to make sure everyone was okay, with one seventeen year old positioning himself in front a group of children he didn’t know in order to protect them—giving them his phone to watch cartoons while the situation was assessed. Workers have, workers can, and workers will protect each other without the racist harassment of the murderous capitalist police state.

This fact was reflected in the collective decision making and determination of PLP and our friends organizing the event not to end the tournament on a note of fear. Then a party member and sports commentator told the remaining crowd that we should stay and play one more game. He explained that the youth in this Brooklyn neighborhood are exposed to the capitalist violence that comes with living in impoverished and marginalized neighborhoods, that they don’t have the choice to just up and leave whenever disturbances happen, and so we shouldn’t either. We quickly organized another match that was multi-generational, co-ed, and multi-racial to end the event, building solidarity and showing we’re not intimidated by violence that stems from capitalism.

A world without kkkops is possible

Events like this are small, but significant examples of how the working class doesn’t need bosses to run the world and doesn’t need kkkops to keep us safe. The working class can organize ourselves and create a world run by and for workers. And one day, we will—when we build a mass party with youth leading the way! The necessity to build PLP is clear. If we don’t, the bosses and their badge wearing goons will continue to exploit workers’ feelings of hopelessness and to redirect any sense of spirit towards dead-ends such as electoral politics. Only workers armed with communist politics and values have the power to turn the dark nights we’re currently living in into brighter days. Long live communism!



India annexes Kashmir, spreads volatility in the region



In 1947 a large section of Kashmir became part of India. It was granted semi-autonomous status by Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. This ended on August 5, 2019 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi deployed 38,000 paramilitary forces to Kashmir, suspended all internet and cell phone communication there, banned public gatherings, placed two chief ministers of Kashmir under house arrest and revoked the special autonomous status of Kashmir.

As rivalries between these regional powers sharpen, the rulers are resorting to more and more openly nationalistic fascism. Whether it's the Hin-

du nationalism of Modi, or the white nationalism of Trump, or the nationalism of the local Kashmiri capitalists, workers have no stake in supporting any bosses.

Kashmir, a cog in the inter-imperialist war machine

Kashmir is divided among India, Pakistan and China, where these regional powers meet in the Himalayan Mountains. India controls the largest portion of land, followed by Pakistan, with China having the smallest section. China snatched about 9200 square miles from India in a 1962 war. Another

2000 square miles were given to China by Pakistan. Kashmir is militarily important to all three of these nuclear powers. Economically China and Pakistan are cooperating on China's One Belt, One Road infrastructure project and China has investments in Pakistan's mineral resources.

Pakistan and India have already fought three major wars since 1947 and a smaller war in 1999. An insurgency is still going on in Kashmir, as well as a huge presence of Indian and Pakistani forces. Every day dozens of innocent workers living on the both sides of border are killed by cross border firing. Every day 1.5 billion people are being threatened by nuclear war. The working class has gained nothing from these bosses' wars. The only war that will benefit us is when workers of all nations unite to get rid of capitalism and all the bosses.

Internationalism, fascism's achilles heel

Prime Minister Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party came to power on a super nationalist, pro-Hindu, anti-Muslim program. Now he's continuing to consolidate his power, appealing to his nationalist base and outflanking his rivals. We call that fascism. He needs fascist rule not just to grab tiny Kashmir, but also to confront China, a rising world imperialist power right on India's border. Meanwhile very little help is coming from the United States, a declining imperialist power with an unpredictable and unreliable president.

So Article 370, granting Kashmir special autonomy is gone. Article 35A may also be gone. It restricted non-Kashmiris from buying land in the state. Indians might be allowed to migrate to Kashmir and alter its demographics.

Bosses want to spread nationalism, fundamentalism and racism in the region to spread hatred and chaos. This is helpful for them to exploit the working class more vigorously. These bosses need to avoid class struggle, thus they are dividing the working class by nation, religion, race and sect. Many workers understand the tricks of these capitalist bosses. As we lead struggles against these bosses, we are trying to educate the masses of workers that we need to establish a communist international movement to get rid of these bosses once and for all. Join the international, communist Progressive Labor Party.

RETIREEES SUPPORT IMMIGRANT WORKERS, FIGHT NATIONALISM

WASHINGTON, DC, 7/23 - Worker's struggles have no borders! That was the sentiment that led members of NYC's District Council 37 Retirees' Association (including a Progressive Labor Party member) to bring a strong resolution of support for immigrants facing "racist, cruel and uncaring" policies to the nationwide retiree council of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The world's capitalists are ramping up racism and nationalism in preparation for more and bigger wars. Workers all around the world must sharpen our efforts to smash all borders with multiracial unity as we build a revolutionary movement for communism.

At the retiree association meeting, our more immediate and limited goal was to encourage each of the council's participants to "join efforts, with others in the labor movement as well as with community and religious partners, in support of immigrant rights."

We pointed out in our motion that immigrants around the world are forced to migrate "due to a combination of political and religious persecution, government repression and narco terrorist

gangs and the lack of jobs and economic opportunity..." We also argued that these problems were based on the history of colonialism and imperialism around the world. That's why, as we fight to support our immigrant sisters and brothers, we must build the understanding that the entire worldwide imperialist system has to go.

Prior to the vote most of the voting representatives were spoken to and were supportive of our intent. The motion passed overwhelmingly, reflecting the disgust felt by most at the treatment of immigrants and their children at the southern U.S. border. Our actions in Washington grew out of the "Lights for Liberty" rallies held on July 12th. In NYC, there was, at best, modest participation from organized labor.

This raised the issue of trying to bring support for immigrants into our unions. The following week, at a small gathering of retirees of one city union, an immigrant from El Salvador was invited to explain this issue. He told of his forced migration to the U.S. He had been on a death list in the late 1970s. His story personalized the general story

of the dangerous but necessary trip many are taking today.

He galvanized the resolve of several retirees who would be attending the retiree council to take action there. Prior to going to Washington for the AFSCME retiree council meeting, a member of PLP joined with other retirees to craft a resolution to present there. We understood that a resolution wouldn't by itself change much. Nor would AFSCME likely act on the resolution. We felt that local union chapters, however, could cite this resolution in calling together union and community coalitions.

If actions like ours were replicated in other mass organizations, then demonstrations like those on July 12th would take on a different character. We could raise the ideas of smashing all borders, of fighting racism with multiracial unity, and of building a revolutionary movement for an egalitarian communist world. Today, facing a "dark night" of limited class struggle, a lot of work must be done to win workers to these communist politics of the Progressive Labor Party.

LETTERS

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

Hoops for Justice was inspirational

I attended the 2019 Hoops for Justice youth basketball tournament on Saturday August 3, held in a predominately Black working class and immigrant neighborhood of Brooklyn (see front page). This event honors the legacy of Shantel Davis and Kimani Gray, young Black working-class people who were both brutally murdered by racist NYPD. Since these racist murders, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has worked very closely with the families to help organize this ongoing fight for justice.

There was a good vibe among the participants and the spirit of the games was both lively and friendly. There were plenty of cold drinks to keep the players fresh and ample delicious BBQ to feed the entire community for free.

At an intermission, both players and community members gathered on the court to hear family members of Kimani and Shantel offer emotional words about the significance of this event. In addition to their own painful personal loss, they memorialized the endless list of young Black men and women murdered by racist cops and the need for everyone to stand up together and fight for justice. An original song lamenting the loss of Kimani and Shantel, and so many others gunned down by racist cops, was beautifully sung and brought tears to my eyes and many others in the crowd.

When the games were resumed, there was an unexplained commotion just outside the park which sent both players and fans rushing for cover. No one was hurt, but the incident illustrated the pressures of life that youth face in a working-class neighborhood in a city beset by racist cops and difficult conditions for workers. Adults took the court to continue playing the games in an effort to maintain the overwhelmingly good spirit at the event.

I was happy that several of my friends who live in the neighborhood attended this event and was inspired by this expression of community solidarity. I felt further encouraged that they expressed an inter-



est in becoming more involved, made donations, and took CHALLENGEs to share with friends.

★★★★★

Multiracial unity more important than ever

The Hoops for Justice tournament event is part of an ongoing struggle to build multiracial unity to fight racism in New York, and elsewhere. PLP has been at the forefront of these struggles, pointing out how racism hurts all workers and their families.

This is more true today than ever, as racist killings multiply, by cops and their white supremacist gutter racist buddies, like those who in just recently-massacred over 30 workers and children, and injured many more, in just two days in just two U.S. cities. The white supremacist in the White House, as well as the rest of the ruling class and their lackeys, all have

blood on their hands
★★★★★

‘Workers, not criminals’

Last month several community based organizations participated in two different demonstrations against Amazon. Two members of our club led several Party chants like “Working people have no nations” “We are workers not criminals” and “Workers united will never be defeated,” which were enthusiastically followed by the demonstrators. We also sold around 80 wonderfully combative CHALLENGEs.

The demonstrations were very militant against these fascist collaborators of ICE, the deportation police which is carrying out Donald Trump’s deportation policies. Amazon not only shares the information of the people who buy from them online with these fascists, it also super exploits the workers in their warehouses and those who deliver their products throughout the world.

It is important for all Progressive Labor Party members to actively participate in organizations in the community, also in churches, unions, etc, and continue to propagate our Party’s revolutionary communist line. This is how the Party will be strengthened and grow to be able to lead, along with all other workers, our future communist society. Our future depends on our example, ideological strength, and unity. We have to deepen our understanding of communism and the creation of a worker’s state where communists are an example to all.

These two demonstrations showed us that a worker’s world is possible, that sooner or later we will smash the borders and the capitalist-imperialists rule all over the world. In this Dark Night, the objective conditions for us to carry it out are being created. Nothing is impossible for us communists, we have to overcome the limits to the struggle and give the leadership the working class needs to take power and build the new society we are looking forward to.

★★★★★

200th anniversary of Peterloo Massacre



The Peterloo Massacre is a snapshot in the history of class struggle around the world that is largely hidden from workers by the rulers. Though this was not a revolutionary

struggle but rather one for electoral rights, it does show the determination of workers to fight back against the intolerable conditions that capitalism imposes on our class. And, as

always, the lessons learned lead to advances for workers’ struggles.

On Monday, August 16, 1819, a mass demonstration of working women and men and radical reformers in the city of Manchester was attacked by the British Army, leaving 18 dead and 700 wounded (peterloomassacre.org). This brutal and bloody atrocity was soon called “Peterloo” in mockery of the victory over Napoleon Bonaparte’s army at Waterloo in 1815. (The journalist who coined that phrase was sentenced to a year in prison!)

The end of the 20-year long Napoleonic wars caused a depression in the British economy. Manchester was a center of developing capitalist industry, especially in weaving. The powerloom industry was growing, with 20,000 workers, but there were still 40,000 handweavers, working from home. Many thousands of these workers and their families became homeless and starving after the war period. Wages for a 16-hour days had been cut by 50 percent (theguardian.com). One account from a book entitled The Peterloo Massacre by Robert Reid vividly recalls the conditions that triggered the rebellion:

Nothing but ruin and starvation stare one in the face [in the streets of Manchester and the surrounding towns], the state of this district is truly dreadful, and I believe nothing but the greatest exertions can prevent an insurrection [rebellion]

Continued on page 7

Working class history: the Peterloo Massacre

Continued from page 6

Workers rebel against bosses crisis

Three years earlier, in November and December, 1816, protest demonstrations at Spa Fields, London had been attacked by the bosses. After that, a few small revolutionary societies, mainly composed of middle-class radicals who supported the now-defeated French Revolution, had conspired to overthrow the British government. Each was infiltrated and betrayed by government spies – the Blanketeers, Manchester, March 1817; the Pentrich Rising (June, 1817); and the Cato Street Conspiracy (1820).

Strikes against the capitalist class had targeted economic issues, such as low wages and lack of food. But Peterloo was different.

Workers go out and cops target women

Called on a Monday, so that handloom weavers, who didn't work Mondays because they had already worked throughout the weekend, the Peterloo demonstration was not revolutionary, but a demand for a reform of Parliament—to give more men the vote (women could not vote until the 1920s). Afraid of the might of the organized workers, local politicians demanded that the leaders of the demonstration be arrested. They sent in the army. The Hussars (heavy cavalry) charged the workers on horseback, swinging sabers (heavy swords). Many women were among the demonstrators. Soldiers specifically targeted the women for wanting the same rights as men. They were three times more likely to be killed or wounded than men.

Shelley commemorates peterloo

Percy Bysshe Shelley commemorated Peterloo in his poem, "The Masque of Anarchy,"

which includes this stanza:

***Rise, like lions after
slumber***

***In unvanquishable
number!***

***Shake your chains to
earth, like dew***

***Which in sleep had fallen
on you:***

***Ye are many—they are
few!***

Karl Marx said that Shelley, who died in 1822, "was a revolutionary through and through and would consistently have stood with the vanguard of socialism."

Lessons for the working class

Peterloo is recognized as the beginning of mass, organized working-class protest for political and social reform in England. It showed that the working class is capable of organizing for its class interests at many levels, and it showed the intransigence of the ruling class in fighting in its own interests. The experience of Peterloo led to the

Chartist Movement (a mass, and often violent, working-class movement for political reform in the first half of the 19th century, which led to the development of the trade unions. (The British imperialists used similar, and even more brutal and bloody tactics to preserve their rule in India in 1919, when they opened fire on a peaceful gathering at Amritsar, killing 400 and injuring 1,000.)

The experiences at Peterloo led to the development of revolutionary communist ideology and the fight to completely overthrow the capitalist system.



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from the capitalist press that may be of use for our readers.

NYT=New York Times

GW= Guardian Weekly

Israeli war criminals demolish housing

NYT, 7/23 — Israeli bulldozers arrived before dawn...and began clawing at...10 Palestinian apartment blocks...for demolition....which Palestinian officials condemned as a "war crime" and "ethnic cleansing."

....Footage showed distraught Palestinians being led away by security forces....The buildings...were still under construction....

"...Said Louai Masouda, 21, a...resident and carpenter...."There people with no homes now. Where can they live...."

"This is the Israeli understanding of prosperity and peace," Saeb Erekat...wrote sarcastically...Israeli butchery."

....In all, around 350 people are said to be at risk of property loss.

How capitalism sits on the backs of the working class

NYT, 7/28 (letter) — The three richest Americans — Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos and Warren Buffett — own as much wealth as the bottom half of the U.S. population, or 160 million people. The world's richest 26 people own as much as the poorest half of humanity or 3.9 billion people.

Genocide of indigenous workers continues

GW, 4/12 — Sharon Begay knows this road by heart....Indian service road 5010....

It's an unpaved byway in the Sanostee chapter of the Navajo nation that feeds a network of unnamed dirt roads, serving hundreds of families....

On a rainy day in the winter of 2004, her father collapsed in a cluster of wood-frame homes where she and her extended family still live....He got out of his truck and crumpled to the ground. The rain that day was relentless, the mud impenetrable.

"It took three ambulances to finally get him," Begay said. "The first ambulance got stuck in the mud, then the second got stuck." Nearly four hours passed before the third ambulance reached him. He died in the hospital shortly afterward. "I've...wondered if he could have lived longer if the road was better...."

During winter or early spring...Sanostee...president Frank Smith said, "People leave early in the morning when the ground is still frozen, and they can't come home until it's frozen again. Sometimes people can't leave home for a week at a time, or longer."

Rain or snow transforms the dirt into mud so thick that the school buses get mired up to their axles. School gets canceled. People can't get to work or...to grocery stores....

"The road grabs people and doesn't let go. It has a hold on all of us....In 1968...the Navajo signed a treaty with the United States that ended their incarceration...and allowed them to return to their ancestral homeland....

...The government pledged to provide a schoolhouse and a teacher for every 30 students.

The promises were essentially worthless. The federal government...failed to furnish the most basic infrastructure — roads — needed to run local schools. Instead students were sent to distant

boarding schools that stripped them of their Native language and culture....Sanostee is a tight-knit community. Yet one rainstorm can cut the chapter in pieces..."In denying us roads, the federal government has denied us access to basic human rights like education and health care."

Boston Red Sox: baseball's Jim Crow holdout to the very end

NYT, 7/19 — On July 21, 1959, Pumpsie Green made his major league debut...with the Boston Red Sox....Green, who died on [July 17]...was the first black player for the Red Sox, the last of the...major league franchises of the time to have remained all white....

In April 1945, the Red Sox, under pressure...gave a brief tryout...to Jackie Robinson and two fellow Negro League players. None of them heard from the Red Sox again....

By the time Green was called up by the Red Sox, Jackie Robinson, Frank Robinson, Larry Doby, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks, Roberto Clemente, Roy Campanella and Monte Irvin — the vanguard of baseball's black stars — were forging Hall of Fame careers. But the Red Sox...had maintained that they could not find a single black player to help them....

The...NAACP, accusing the Red Sox of discrimination, expressed outrage at the team's failure to promote Green....When Green played in his first game at Fenway Park on Aug. 4, 1959,...he received a standing ovation, and he hit a triple in his first at-bat...At spring training with the Red Sox in Scottsdale, Ariz. in 1959, the team's hotel barred black guests, so the Red Sox found lodging for him at a hotel in nearby Phoenix, and he was driven to and from workouts by a team employee.

U.S. state terrorism spawns individual terrorists

El Paso Dayton. Gilroy. Add these cities to the growing list of mass shootings that have occurred in the U.S. in 2019 alone. Of the 968 victims, 196 people have died. The shooting in El Paso, Texas on August 3 was among the deadliest attacks in the U.S. motivated by gutter racism. It happened as the greatest terrorist of all, U.S. imperialism, is declining around the world and is rotting internally. The answer is multi-racial working-class unity and comradeship as we fight against racism and sexism now and for an egalitarian, communist world in the future.

While the “threat of the great replacement,” or the idea that white people will be replaced by Black, Latin or Asian people was cited by the shooter in El Paso, the actions of these “domestic terrorists,” are motivated by racist and/or sexist hatred which is connected to a deeper and often overlooked trend of social and economic alienation. The U.S. working class is disaffected, isolated and living in a constant state of uncertainty and fear—fear of losing their jobs, healthcare, homes and more. Youth are mired in hopelessness, increasingly turning to suicide and/or drugs. Some horrifically turn to mass killing sprees as a way of achieving some form of notoriety. Capitalism and imperialism breed and profit from a culture of drugs and violence.

Racism and violence at the U.S.-Mexico border are nothing new. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, politicians, big businesses and the Texas Rangers often depicted Mexicans and indigenous peoples as criminals to justify the theft of land and resources. At the present, the brutality of racism is intensified, with President Donald Trump calling Mexicans drug dealers, criminals, and rapists. He has appealed to his base to “build a wall” to keep immigrants out of the U.S. His administration has locked up and detained thousands of immigrants and asylum seekers from Latin America, separating families and denying their rights to claim asylum—a legacy continued from former Democratic president Barack Obama.

Capitalism begets violence

Mass shooting trends clearly indicate the intensification of racism, a result of the toxicity that capitalism breeds. Politicians are spinning their wheels, saying these mass shootings are mental health issues, or are the result of violent video games. They squawk about gun control and make calls for universal background checks.

However, the real culprit is the capitalist profit system and its rotten culture of individualism, racism and sexism. In a period of escalating inter-imperialist competition and declining U.S. global dominance, capitalists are seizing every opportunity to use tragedies such as mass shootings for their own purposes. There is an increase of police force presence. Fascism is increasing with calls for more vigilance and surveillance to create and encourage a culture of paranoia and distrust among workers. These deadly mass shootings have only exacerbated fears and anxiety that capitalists have always used to divide workers against each other, especially the fear of being replaced by some other “race.”

Opportunity for bosses to build fascism

Politicians and the bosses’ media use psychology to explain what’s behind U.S.’s “domestic terror problem.” They would rather have people believe that these “lone wolves” are isolated individuals who act on extreme beliefs independently.

Instead, these shootings are an opportunity to build all-class unity. The liberal wing of the U.S. ruling class would love to use these shootings as a way to build allegiance to the system. In the name of safety, the working class will face greater surveillance and repression. Due to racism, this will disproportionately affect Muslim, Black, and immigrant workers. The lesson here is that capitalism begets violence. Capitalists cannot keep the workers “safe.” Only the working class can provide that.

Meanwhile, the U.S. rulers are preparing for the inevitable global land war to defend their dying empire. They need masses of workers ready to fight against China and Russia, thinking they are defending some non-existent democracy and the “American Dream.” This imperialist wing of the U.S. ruling class wants workers to have guns only to kill workers in other nations as they defend the bosses’ worldwide empire.

While this single incident may be the deadliest mass shooting in “modern” U.S. history, it pales in comparison to the mostly Black, indigenous and Latin workers murdered by the police every year in the U.S. It pales in comparison to the number of killings that are a result of U.S. military operations around the world in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. A system that engenders violence cannot be part of the solution.

Opportunity for us to build communism

The rulers have no answers for the working class. They are fighting profiteering wars all over the world, and the big imperialist powers are preparing for world war. And it is only the workers that fight and die in these wars and many more in the coming world war, quite possibly with nuclear weapons. So let’s sharpen our struggles against racism and sexism. Let’s promote a better world, run by the working class, for the working class. That’s communism. Let’s plant those revolutionary communist seeds in every struggle that we are in. Join us. Join the international, revolutionary, communist Progressive Labor Party!

**CAPITALISM
BREEDS SEXISM
RACISM
& IMPERIALISM!**



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