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**JUSTICE FOR RASHAD—ABOLISH THE POLICE!**

INDIANA, August 24—The Gary Police Department took the life of yet another Black worker: 25-year-old Rashad Cunningham. So, the fires of anti-racism and working-class anger were especially bright today. Progressive Labor Party canvassed with CHALLENGE in Rashad’s neighborhood, participated in a local antincarcin community cookout, and joined a march in front of the police station. Today showed that the working class needs and are open to communist ideas.

Rashad was shot while sitting in his car in front of his home in Gary on August 17. Since his murder, there have been demonstrations, vigils, and marches organized on a near-daily basis by his family and supported by the community and families of others in the city who have had their loved ones murdered by the same fascist cop force.

**Take CHALLENGE to the neighborhood**

Before the cookout, PL’ers went to the neighborhood where Rashad was murdered by the racist GPD and went door-to-door talking to people and selling CHALLENGE, the newspaper that explains that the police force descends from the same roots as the enslavers to help fight back PLP highlighted that without an understanding of how racism and sexism is rooted in capitalism and class, and without multi-racial unity in fighting locally and internationally, then we are giving the bosses space to continue to profit from our misery. Communist revolution under the leadership of PLP not the bosses’ dead-end reforms, is what will free our class!

After the program ended, we spoke to people present about the PLP’s current work and history. We distributed CHALLENGE and sold our “Black and Red” t-shirts, which feature the pictures of known Black communists in the U.S. We got contacts of those who expressed interest in learning more about PLP.

As always, PLP must continue to be steeped in the mass movement. We build relationships with other members of our class, connecting our various struggles to the failures of capitalism, and the need for communist revolution.

We must continue to put forward communist ideas. Not doing this leaves the working class open to bad politics from reformist groups, or even worse, without a political analysis to tie together these capitalist abuses.

**Black workers lead the way**

After the cookout, PL’ers joined the family and friends of Rashad Cunningham, and the families of other slain youth—15-year-old Kemonte Cobbs and 38-year-old Thomas Watkins—in a protest at the Gary police station (see photo). Rashad’s two friends who were in the car with him were brutally beaten. His family has yet to receive as much as a statement from the police as to why their family member was killed.

The protesters marched around the station and told their own stories of abuses at the hands of these brutal cops. There are no answers for these families or justice under capitalism. These cops function to terrorize the working class. The only solution is to ultimately dismantle capitalist state power, and to build a world run by workers for workers using communist ideology. Under communism, the police will be abolished. The working class will solve its own problems through the collective.

Until then, we must fight back together as a class and build class-consciousness. We must take advantage of every chance the bosses and their agents leave for us to learn and grow in our revolutionary politics. We must put forward communist politics lead these working-class struggles because the lives of our class depend on it. Fight Back!
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, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state apparatus — governments, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship is supported and buttressed 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 building a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profit. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing the idea of “race.” Capitalism uses super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special opposition of women — sex — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nationalism and nationalism. One international working class, one party.

Communism means that the millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism means the Party leads every communist organization. Join Us!

CONTACT US
Email desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Website www.plp.org
Challengenewsletter.wordpress.com
Twitter: @PLPchallenge
Facebook: Challenge Desafio

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 Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “fame” around any particular individual.

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

Kashmir: nationalism & regional rivalry on the rise

On August 5, 38,000 paramilitary troops from India entered the “semi-autonomous” area of Kashmir, an open act of imperialist occupation. They were acting on orders from hyper-nationalist Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his fascist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This is just the last in a string of vicious attacks conducted by the BJP which has dramatically ramped up anti-Muslim racism in the country.

Recently it threatened to strip citizenship status from nearly four million workers in the Indian state of Assam, and deport them to Bangladesh (Slate, 8/9).

In service to the Indian capitalist ruling class, Modi and the BJP are desperately trying to consolidate power over resource-rich Kashmir at the expense of capitalist rivals in Pakistan and China. They have been emboldened by the tactics of imperialists in the U.S. and European Union, who share an interest in slowing the advance of Chinese imperialism.

As with any conflict between rival capitalist bosses, the working class stands to suffer the most. Confronted with the poisoned spirits of nationalism, imperialism, and religious fundamentalism, workers in Kashmir need to reject all capitalist political traps in favor of proletarian internationalism. As the international working class, we must unite in the communist Progressive Labor Party and organize a mass Red Army that crushes the capitalist class worldwide and builds a communist society to meet workers’ needs.

Economic, political crisis drive Indian fascism

For years, Modi and the BJP have sought to divide workers by fanning the flames of anti-Muslim racism. In 2015, a year after he had supposedly assumed power, India saw a 17 percent increase in religiously motivated violence (India Today; 2/10/17). In 2002, as chief minister of Gujarat state, Modi himself infamously presided over the massacre of more than a thousand Muslims at the hands of fascist mobs (Washington Post, 8/16).

India is the world’s seventh largest economy, home to a huge, productive working class and major industrial and financial centers. But the contradictions of capitalism are provoking an economic contraction. Growth slowed to 6.8 percent in 2018 and to 5.7 percent in the last fiscal quarter. The automobile and real estate industries are in crisis (Economic Times, 8/21).

By exerting more direct control over Kashmir, the Indian ruling class sees an opportunity to reverse the economic slowdown. They hope to cancel a law blocking outsiders from buying property in the state, a potential land grab like the Israeli bosses’ racist seizure of Palestinian land in the occupied territory. Although the population of Kashmir at present is majority Muslim, the Indian rulers’ takeover could drastically change the demographic. As a major industrial and de facto and inevitably deadly ethnic cleansing (Foreign Affairs, 8/9).

The BJP also aims to take charge of Kashmir’s glaciers and rivers, including the Indus, which serves Pakistan and Afghanistan (The Guardian, 1/3). Control over fresh water equates to power in India, where lethal heat waves this summer rocked the country and destroyed crops (New York Times, 6/8). As climate change threatens greater ecological destruction, the bosses’ fights over water will only become more deadly.

Inter-imperialist rivalry sharpeners in South Asia

That the U.S. and EU made hardly a sound about the Indian occupation speaks to their own internal divisions, but also to the rise of fascism on an international scale. The racist policies of Modi and the BJP find common ground with nationalist appeals from U.S. Klansman-in-chief Donald Trump, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, and France’s Marine Le Pen.

The U.S. and European bosses’ tolerance of Modi’s aggressive racism in Kashmir also reflects India’s strategic importance as a counter to rising imperialist power China. China has governed a portion of Kashmir since the early 1960s, and recently has pushed to expand its influence in the region. China’s massive Belt and Road Initiative has invested nearly $50 billion in the area (Foreign Affairs, September 2019).

The Chinese rulers’ support for Pakistan, India’s chief regional rival, sharpens the inter-imperialist tensions. In 2016, the Chinese Overseas Port Holding Company opened a deep water port in the coastal Pakistani city of Gwadar in populous Balochistan Province, securing a 43-year contract for resource extraction. At least 22,900 students from Pakistan are now studying in China, a dramatic increase (The Diplomat, 1/24/18). The Indian bosses’ racist anti-worker offensive in Kashmir aims not only to weaken Pakistani capitalism today, but also to prepare for a Chinese imperialist challenge tomorrow.

Although Trump’s erratic foreign policy has complicated relations here as elsewhere, the U.S. ruling class remains mostly aligned in backing India as a counterweight to China. Both Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and former Secretary of Defense James Mattis praised diplomatic visits after India purchased a missile system from the Russian bosses (Bloomberg, 9/3/18).

While Trump and the domestically oriented capitalists represent obvious parallel possibilities to Modi’s racist nationalism, the finance capital main wing of U.S. imperialism has nurtured close economic and military ties with the Indian capitalists for close to two decades, through the Barack Obama presidency (Foreign Affairs, September 2019).

Reject all capitalist misleaders, fight for communist revolution

Though treated as pawns in a power struggle between multiple nuclear-armed countries, workers in Kashmir have not taken their oppression and exploitation lying down. Since the start of the Indian military occupation in early August, the working class has regularly clashed with security forces and demonstated in opposition. In the Soura neighborhood of Srinagar, Kashmir’s largest city, workers have put up barricades and armed themselves with stones (Al Jazeera, 8/20).

Unfortunately, the workers’ brave efforts risk being absorbed into the bosses’ reactionary movements. Local opposition parties, like the National Conference and the People’s Democratic Party, have vocally opposed the occupation. But these liberal reformers will never advocate for the destruction of capitalism and the dictatorship of the working class. Like all bosses, they seek to unite workers around the dead ends of nationalism and religion—the covers they need to exploit in their own interests.

To truly advance to our own collective liberation, we need a Party that rejects all of the bosses’ deadly schemes: the international Progressive Labor Party. Building a communist revolution is the only way out of the disaster of capitalism. From Kashmir to Palestine, from Mexico to Tanzania—workers of the world, unite!
MARYLAND, August 27— “La Lucha Obre-ra no Tiene Frontera” and “Racism Means We Have to Fight Back” rang out in Hyatts-ville, Maryland to protest raids by Immigra-tion and Customs Enforcement. Workers demanded solidarity with immigrants and formerly incarcerated persons in this sanctu-ary city.

This rally was called at a forum on im-migration the previous week where Progress-ive Labor Party and friends joined to plan a respon-one against the rising deportations. Par-ticipants concluded that capitalism creates borders to divide and scare workers, when in fact no worker should be considered “illegal,” and no barriers to movement should exist since the working class is global by definition. Communists insist on smashing all borders, a goal that can only be achieved by waging a worldwide working-class revolution.

Workers embrace red ideas

We distributed over 200 flyers at the rally, with contact information for building a rap-id response network to ICE raids in Hyatts-ville. Workers in the neighborhood received 40 copies of CHALLENGE newspaper; seven signed up for further contact.

Two workers related their struggles with ICE, and we pledged our solidarity with them. Two local residents spontaneously brought us Gatorade and snacks as a token of solidarity and appreciation for this antiracist demonstration. This shows that the working class is looking for leadership and fightback. It is up to communists to give that leadership.

ICE + PD: state terrorists collaborate

The protest was organized following a pet-tition campaign in which PLP participated to demand an end to local police collabora-tion with ICE. CASA, an immigrant rights or-ganization, documented nine instances over the preceding months in which local police called in ICE, despite assurances that they would not do so.

When the Assistant Chief of Police Hector Velez was confronted with the irrefutable facts, he denied them as impossible because such actions would have violated police poli-cy. This shows how the bosses’ laws are abid-ed to the extent that it serves them.

The police chief himself was forced to admit to one case, but claimed that the cop was acting in good faith; the cop was “confused” over the difference between a civil and a criminal ICE warrant. Such hypocrisy is standard police operating procedure! Mean-while, it is too late for the people deported as a result of this cop’s “confusion.” The police here exposed themselves as the ruling-class agents that they are. They serve and protect the rulers—their banks, property, and interests.

Reform is about bosses’ infighting

The petition drive was highlighted by the vocal presence of petitioners at several po-litical events, which ultimately forced the police chief himself to be forced to the extent that it serves them.

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NEWARK AUGUST 28—As the recent pro-
tests at the MTV Video Music Awards demon-
strate, the race for liberal souls is intense. That is why, and this capitalist system continues to poison the working class of Newark.

This month, the Environmental Protection Agency notified Newark that two of three homes tested with PUR filters still have high levels of lead, despite the discovery of lead 3 years ago. The EPA cynically suggested the working class drink bot-
tled water.

These events are a textbook example of how racism wreaks havoc on Black and Latin work-
ners. It also shows how liberal politicians like Mayor Baraka appear to be “for the people,” but they represent the interests of capitalism.

The health of our class in Newark is in peril. Yet, one thing is clear—this country is mov-
ting towards war and fascism. It is not enough to fight for clean water; we must struggle to overthrow the capitalist system that is using its resources towards war with countries like China and Russia rather than water for workers. The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party (PFLP) unites workers internationally to fight for the working-class power: communism.

Echo of Flint

Eighty percent of Newark is Black or Latin and the working class has been suffering through the blight of unsafe drinking water.

Lead is a powerful neurotoxin. It can lead to development delays, learning difficulties, and behavioral disorders in children. It can cause developmental, nerve, kid-
ney, and cardiovascular problems. Pregnant wom-
ens are at risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, and new-
borns with irreversible damage to their brain and nervous system. There is no such thing as a "safe" level of lead consumption.

The Baraka administration knew this in 2016, when over 30 schools had to turn off their water. Newark was out of compliance with federal lead regulations. “Newark reported yet another ex-
ceedance of the 15 parts per billion federal action level for lead in drinking water—this time, lead levels are tapping in at 55 parts per billion, more than three times the federal action level!” (Natural Resource Defense Council).

Newark politicians stayed silent. In April 2018, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) and the Newark Education Workers (NEW) Cau-
cus made an announcement: they intend to file a lawsuit. Even then, the City still confused people by announcing on their website, “NEW-
ARK’S WATER IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE TO DRINK.”

Liberal politicians’ racism continues

It wasn’t until October 2018, when the trial was set to begin, that the City admitted to the lead problem. Even then, half of the residents have yet to receive filters. People were turned away, given the wrong filters, or not taught properly how to in-

stall and use them.

The City had to replace lead service lines for each home. The lead service line connects the wa-
ter main to the individual home. In Flint and Pitts-
burgh, those lines were replaced for free. In New-
ark, residents are expected to pay up to $1,000 to replace their line. This was the same City that found money to give Jeff Bezos and Amazon $8

billion in tax credits. Newark has only removed 75% lead service lines out of 10,000 so far (they were supposed to start in July 2018).

Under communism, we would change the en-
tire way this crisis is being dealt with. The prob-
lem wouldn’t have been acute, if existent at all, be-
cause the society’s resources would be allocat-
ed according to need, not profits or wars. With the working class in charge, all homes would be tested rigorously; all lead would be removed immediate-
lly because there would be one main determinant: safety. We would train millions to help solve and prevent the problem.

TRUSTING DEMOCRATS IS TOXIC

While the Republicans and Trump are openly racist and clearly enemies of the working class—particularly Black and Latin workers, trusting the Democrats is clearly toxic. The Baraka administra-
tion continues to lie about the extent of the crisis. While those in the Pequannock town continue to struggle with high lead levels and inadequate re-
sources from the City, those in the Wanaque town are getting zero support! City hall continues to lie about the extent of the lead in the East Ward, as well as parts of the North, Central, and South wards. They even refused to give out cheap PUR filters to these residents.

The administration has done little: distributed filters with fast-approaching expiration dates, im-
proper installation. When asked to be more pro-
active in assisting the residents, the City cries that they don’t have the resources. While these politi-
cians don’t have the resources for Black and Latin workers, they have resources for war and fascism.

This crisis shows us how capitalism is a de-

mocracy for the bosses and a dictatorship for the working class. Even after all of this, Newark still refuses to give out relief to the eastern part of the City because the water comes from a different reservoir. There is evidence that lead problems exist in this area as well but the bosses don’t care! (NRDC, 7/27).

When money is needed for war, or to give to their allies like Saudi Arabia or Israel, or when banks need billions to get bailed out—money is never a problem. When the working class needs basic drinking water—the burden is on us to fight for it.

Money for war & police state but not for water

Time and time again, the ruling class will pre-
sent us with wolves in sheep’s clothing. Demo-
cratic Party politicians like Congressmen Albio

Sires and Donald Payne Jr. voted for a $1.4 trillion war budget but have done nothing for relief in this City. Their interests lie with JP Morgan Chase, Exx-
on Mobil, and the rest of the corporations that rule the US. As the mayor of Newark, Mayor Baraka of course would run society. Under communism, the working class will run society.

NEWARK WORKERS KEEP FIGHTING

The Newark Water Coalition, a multi-racial and multi-generational organization led by hon-
est, energetic, and creative youth and elders. They have mined in on the bosses, organizing protests around these issues. They have also worked to dis-
tribute filters and water to residents in need. Not only are they fighting back but also they are serv-
ing the working class and making sure they get what they need. This past week, the Newark Water Coalition organized a demonstration at the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards, hosted at New-

ark’s Prudential Center. Fascist bosses sent every cop in the City along with state pigs to lock down the perimeter and block out protesters. Some cops were saddled up on horses and would form a formation along the barricades, ready to defend property over people.

While many are still focused on getting Baraka out, PLP is in the fight, advocating for our energy to be put towards fighting for clean water now and communism in the future. Some members have been receptive to our ideas.

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

While we fight for filters and clean water, we must win the working class to a bigger idea—one of no more capitalists using the earth’s resources for profit and power. An idea that the working class will rule over our own resources. PLP fights for communism. That means that the working class will run society.

We will continue fighting so that our health will not be compromised by the ruling class and their drive towards war. Under capitalism, mostly Black and Latin workers are discriminated against and poisoned by lead. Under communism, they will be the deci-
makers of their own lives. We urge all to join Progressive Labor Party study and action groups. Subscribe to our newspaper CHALLENGE, and fight for a communist world! ☁️
NEW YORK CITY, AUGUST 9 — On the week-end fascist Trump ordered massive round-up-de-portation of immigrants, a multiracial conge-gation in Harlem and members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) met to develop a plan with the goal of building solidarity with our class sisters and brothers under attack by the bosses fascist crimini-alization of migrant workers. For the last two years PLP comrades and our friends in the church work have been organizing as part the New Sanctu-ary coalition in response to these racist attacks. Through our efforts we’ve been able to use the church as a conduit for class consciousness, as we welcome workers seeking refuge, to show that the working class is on their side and that they do not have to live in fear.

**Only workers can protect and serve our class**

The decision to turn this church into a sanctu-ary was positive step forward in our work because we were able to win Black, white, and Latin work-ers to the idea that we should unite, with fellow workers who are undocumented to fight racist depor-tations. In these turbulent times we hope to bring to our church the understanding that there is only one sanc-tuary for workers: communism.

After Trump announced that he would de-port ICE, or the modern day Gestapo, the work-ers who won this fight were reportedly forming net-work leaders among workers who are undocumented to fight racist depor-tations. In these turbulent times we hope to bring to our church the understanding that there is only one sanc-tuary for workers: communism.

In addition to our response plan, we’re be-coming more pro-active in politicizing our work, by raising the level of discussion around immigra-tion with our base. This struggle gave us the opportu-nity to impress upon workers that these mass migrations are no coincidence, and that their root causes are the genocidal conditions around the world stem from imperialism. Some weeks ago the NYT published an op ed piece from a Gua-temalan mother: “Food No Longer Grows Here; I Must Send My Sons North to Survive!” The depre-sion of capitalist-caused climate emergency have brought deadly drought to significant terri-tories in Central America. One young member of our church recently spent a year in a Guatemalan village serving in maternal/child health. She has agreed that our church board reach out to the church she was active in there to establish regu-lar communication. Last night eleven of us in out church were present at most pro-refugee rallies and on striking workers’ picket lines. The CHALLENGE editorial (8/28) on the massive Hong Kong protests said:

Images of masses of people attacking the cops and shutting down a center of global finance may seem inspiring... [but] At their core, the Hong Kong protests are a reactionary, anti-worker movement...[but] strive to galvanize the interests of local billionaires... [against]the one-revolutionary Chinese Commu-nist Party (CCP).

**Letters: readers respond to Hong Kong editorial**

It is important to be prepared to talk to friends about the Hong Kong protests, which are being touted as an example of successful peaceful protest despite the fact that they have turned violent rather quickly. Anti-communist sentiment is also being stoked among work-ers in both the US and Hong Kong, with people praising Hong Kong for resisting the oppressive regime.

We understand the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has long mor-phed into a rising imperialist power. Some friends of mine con-sider Hong Kong as possessing more freedom such as of that of speech compared to mainland China.

However, a recent CHALLENGE editorial is powerful in pointing out that the average resident’s living space is about the same size as a parking spot often shared by multiple people.

Although Hong Kong worker’s discontent with CCP is valid, this energy is being collected by the US bosses in their competition with Chinese bosses. While these protests are militant, and show the power of organized action, Progressive Labor Party must work to continually clarify that in essence, this is a fight over which set of bosses, the Hong Kong bosses or mainland Chinese bosses, will exploit the workers. The main driving force behind these protests is inter-imperialist conflict. This is evident in that these protests are being lauded by the main wing US bosses media.

I appreciated the CHALLENGE editorial because from it I learned that the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) financially backed Hong Kong protesters, the same main-wing front group that funded the failed Arab Spring.

It also clarified how involvement in these protests is part of a long-term intention by the US bosses to interfere with China’s attempts to integrate Hong Kong into its greater bay project to bolster the econ-omy. This is a good example of how liberals pose a greater threat to the working class, as they allow this energy, and funnel it towards the bosses’ aims.

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We should always support the struggles of workers and stu-dents against these bosses, while recognizing that imperialist con-flict is the primary driver behind these protests, and that these bosses against U.S. support for local fascist murder and fight for the socio-economic aid that can begin to save lives and to reverse the stream of immigration-for-survival.

Most of all we want to show workers that we should not only fight Trump’s brash open fascism, but also fight the forces that back him, like the liberals or Casio Cortez types, who only advocate for nicer and safer concentration camps but are not against ending the miserable exploitation that workers face daily under this system. Our actions and the actions of workers to protect fellow work-ers against these attacks speak louder, and show that when the working class is under attack we’re the first to move to defend and serve each other.

Finally, we must strive to grow our base through this work, in order to build the international workers’ revolution, that is the only strategic hope for the seven billion of us to begin to live and thrive on the ruins of the genocidal capitalist world!
As a member of PLP in Haiti, I found that our initiative to study political economy was an opportunity for us all to reflect on a communist society, where human beings can live as human beings, not as wage slaves, without discrimination, according to our needs. 

The school helped us understand how to think about fighting to transform capitalism, a system that sucks the blood from the working class, that sits on a base of exploitation, social inequality, racism, sexism, and war.

We discussed the differences between communism (where wage slavery is smashed and the working class is in control of society to produce for its needs) and socialism (which keeps wage slavery but gives workers a few crumbs, like Venezuela, where I studied).

I learned a lot from all, including a study of migration of workers from different parts of the world in search of work so they can eat, and to escape from capitalist-inspired wars and other kinds of violence. We also read editorials from CHALLENGE on the G20 summit; the struggle in Hong Kong revealing the weaknesses of nationalism, and the effects of inter-imperialist rivalry in the China and the U.S.; and Sudan.

What we learned makes me feel prepared to speak about these things wherever I meet workers and others in struggle. Thank you for organizing this. To the final victory!

Whether we have a “big” job that pays well, or a “small” job that barely pays enough, we are all wage slaves. A communist should live just like all other workers, sticking to our principles like all other workers, sticking to our principles that “tout moun se moun,” that is, that all workers have value as human beings. In our school, we are all students and teachers at the same time.

The school showed the strength of our ideas: the presentations and discussions were lively, especially for those friends in our base who participated with us in this kind of activity for the first time. We have to continue to develop our ideological relationship to the base of the Party here.

Each time we study together, we are on the right path, training and educating our cadre and our base to put an end, once and for all, with the domination of the false ideas of capitalism.

We looked at many aspects of political economy. Sometimes the debate got very animated—I’d even say “hot”—but it always brought light to the advancement of our communist cause.

I propose some changes: plan the school at least six months in advance; guarantee that translated works in Creole and French are available; change location from the city to a rural area and combine study with practical work in the mass movement, for example with a group working on reforestation.

We could organize classes for the students and their parents on the root cause of deforestation and mass poverty in Haiti—the capitalist system that cares more about profits than the needs of workers.

The school was organized in a way to show that “tout moun se moun,” that is, that all workers have value as human beings. In our school, we are all students and teachers at the same time. There is no individualism in this way—we are all equal. Together we teach, together we learn. Also, it’s not a school where we just sit around and talk. It’s a training ground for revolutionary communists—to continually study, act, study, act—to become stronger communists in word and deed in order to overthrow the capitalist system.

The main text was the PL magazine article. Participants were assigned sections of text to present (the French method of “explication de texte,” a close examination, analysis and exposition concerning the interrelationship of the parts to the whole), and then opened the floor to discussion.

We would struggle through disagreements and guarantee as best we could that everyone got a chance to speak. We also ended up with a list of things that we want to address in the future, which can be done through PLP club study. Several people who attended last year’s school participated more in the debate than they had previously, a reflection of their political development in class struggle and the usefulness of the school in developing local communist leaders.

It was noted by several comrades that Party schools are a place where we need not fear speaking openly, where there are no unimportant questions, where we all learn from one another—students and teachers at the same time—so that we, the international working class, can move forward together to communist revolution.
Rest in power, Ginette

Marie Ginette Baptiste, known as Ginette or Jou Jou to her friends and family, died on August 3 after a protracted battle with frontotemporal dementia. Her warm nature, shaped by class-consciousness, and fighting spirit live on through the work of Progressive Labor Party.

Ginette was born in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. She moved to Brooklyn in 1965 when she was 14 years old. It was at a tenant’s meeting at an apartment building where she lived in Brooklyn that she first met fellow tenants who were also comrades in Progressive Labor Party. There began a friendship and comradeship that lasted for decades. She joined the International Committee Against Racism (ICAR), a group that formed in 1980 and later joined the International Committee Against Racism (InCAR), a group led by PLP, and later joined the Association.

Neighborhood Association, as did several other comrades. She, along with several other committed members, was instrumental in helping to forge a spirit of "serving the people" in the Association.

Ginette believed strongly in anti-racism and anti-sexism. Although she herself did not come from a working-class background, she took the side of the working class in the battle against oppression.

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

NYT=New York Times
GW=Guardian Weekly

**NO PAY, WE STAY!** Miners block tracks

Harlan County, Ky. Mountain News, 7/29 — People and organizations continued to stop by a railroad track in Cumberland…bringing food and water to protesting miners. The miners have prevented a train hauling coal from Cloverlick #3 mine…One group among the endless stream of supporters…rolled their mobile kitchen to Harlan to feed the miners free of charge…Blackjewel failed to pay them for weeks they worked and said the company filed for bankruptcy prevents miners from accessing their 401ks, making it even harder for them to feed their families.

The miners…promise to not move until they get the money they are owed. The company owes all of the miners out there have not been paid. Some are $3,000 in the hole, with their accounts frozen and bills delinquent….The miners have failed to pay them for weeks of hard work and the company is now fleeing en masse….

All of the miners out there have not been paid. The miners…set up a few miles down the railroad tracks, where they are blocking the train from leaving the Cloverlick #3 mine….

Ginette became very active in the Ivy Hill Neighborhood Association, as did several other comrades. She was very community-minded, and spent countless hours giving of herself to serve her community. She hosted many neighborhood meetings and parties at her house. She, along with several other committed members, was instrumental in helping to forge a spirit of "serving the people" in the Association.

The racist U.S. presidency: from Washing-ton to Trump

NYT, 7/31 — Ronald Reagan…in 1971…phoned the White House…and, according to a newly released audio recording, called African people "racist slur"…that sparked laughter from the national press…Reagan…in 1980…gave a speech…in Mississippi [at a location] where three young civil rights workers were murdered in 1964…as a subtle not to white segregationists.

Mr. Brown said…driving while black in St. Louis…almost everyone appearing before the judge that day was black….DeShaun Bunch said he was a prime target…"It’s a black man and driving a nice car…"It’s the same. They were doing it before, they’re still doing it now. It ain’t changed since Mike Brown died….”

Red eye on the news….
The latest proposal to address the most segregated and largest public school system—eliminate all “gifted” programs. Why now?

For the last twenty years the liberal politicians in New York City have sanctioned the segregation of the school system at the expense of Black and Latin youth in favor of relying on a few elite high schools to directly serve the needs of the ruling class. Public schools today are more segregated than they were in 1954, when the U.S. Supreme Court, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, acknowledged that “separate” could never be equal.

However, now, with greater competition internationally and domestically the bosses need to re-frame that trend in order to have a united working class in preparation for future wars.

How do you spell racist? DoE

The Department of Education (DoE), and their racist policies consign the vast majority of Black and Latin children—approximately 75 percent of the city’s 1.1 million public school student population—to a segregated, second class education. These bosses continually expose themselves as the shameless racists they are by subjecting students to daily searches, unequal funding, unsafe drinking water, and unhealthy lunches.

It has to do with war & spills

With war plans always on the burner for the imperialists, they need a more robust multinational-armed force to take on their biggest rivals, China and Russia. They also need to fight their domestically oriented rivals who have not been won to the Big Fascists’ long-term outlook. “Rising inequality also is straining the health of liberal democracy. The idea of ‘we the people’ is fading because, in this era of yawning inequality, there is less we share in common. As a result, it is harder to build support for the kinds of policies necessary to deliver broad-based prosperity in the long term, like public investment in education and infrastructure” (NYT 8/24). These Big Fascists understand that president Donald Trump, and the domestically-oriented bosses whom he represents, is bad for a liberal world order. The Democrats are corralling support for a top-down reform movement that will be used to crush the opposition. In other words, this fake anti-racism will be used as leverage against the subordinate wing.

For the main wing bosses, there is a need for them to win the allegiance of the most disaffected youth and their families into believing the system can work for them. In New York City, that is the role of the freshly appointed chancellor of schools, Richard Carranza—he is the latest person that has been chosen to break up the old status quo and attempt to put in place a new face on the racist school system.

Many progressive educators and youth, tired of dealing with and living with the racist conditions of the schools, were excited and encouraged when Carranza came out with guns blazing, claiming he would integrate one of the most segregated school systems in the country. His outward boldness in confronting the racism in schools was a marked difference from his predecessor Carmen Farina. In one of his first public appearances he declared, “We cannot have excellence, we cannot improve outcomes without tackling the inequities that exist in our system,” (Chalkbeat, 9/4/18).

Unsurprisingly, one year later, Carranza has failed to deliver on his seemingly anti-racist goals and is now in year two of his tenure and trying to tamper down expectations, “If I integrated the system, the next thing I’m going to do is I’m going to walk on water,” (New York Times, 8/23).

We say that good schools are integrated schools, that good schools take the learning of each student seriously, and that it’s impossible for a segregated school to be a good school. We also know that there are no good schools under capitalism.

Real communists led anti-racism

The fight at Park Slope Collegiate (PSC) which began in 2010 around school integration illuminated how the DoE was building segregation by installing “elite” schools into neglected campuses where mainly Black and Latin students attended. Because of the united, militant, multiracial, and anti-racist fightback of students, parents, teachers and community members at the school throughout the years, the liberal bosses needed to ensure that other schools would not follow in PSC’s example.

The bosses only want a showpiece adjustment to school segregation. One of the key lessons learned from the PSC struggle is that multiracial unity is the key to defeating racism and the bosses are incapable of creating a school system that serves the need of the working class. These liberal misleaders will never be able to give working class youth the education they deserve.

Not surprisingly, when faced with real anti-racist fightback, the DoE’s response was to attack the school years later with claims of “Communist organizing” (New York Times, 5/4). This failed attempt at extinguishing the fightback happening at the school is deeply rooted in anti-communist history going as far back as the infamous Boys case in the 1930s and through the Civil Rights movements and beyond. Communists have led the multiracial fightback against racism in the streets, the schools and beyond.

The liberal bosses in NYC were counting on anti-communism to frighten and silence anyone who stood against their racist reactionary agenda. The evidence also laid bare the ugly reality that liberal politicians are the main enemy under capitalism. Even though this attack was initiated from three anti-communist staff members inside of the school, the DoE along with the liberal mayor, de Blasio and then school chancellor Carmen Farina, were silent during this attack on this integrating school while publically paying lip service to school integration.

Fake anti-racism

Lip service is still all the bosses have delivered under Carranza and de Blasio. The liberal duo were unsuccessful in their attempt to increase the enrollment of Black and Latin students at the specialized high schools in what would have been the most prominent forced integration plan since the civil rights movements. The State Legislature killed the plan largely due to opposition from Asian American and White parents. Carranza and de Blasio have failed to convince them that they have to sacrifice to the cause of winning Black and Latin students into the system.

Carranza has also spent $23 million on institing mandatory implicit bias training for all 125,000 of NYC’s teachers along with more culturally responsive curriculum. The training essentially removes the blame from the bosses and the racist education system that they have created and supported and places it on individual teachers. We call on teachers to reject this fake anti-racist training and instead unite with their students and their parents and fellow education workers in the fightback. We must train our future leaders to fight against the whole capitalist system.

Defeat the bosses and their ideas

Capitalism causes the working class to fight for the scraps from their table. Instead of fighting for a system that meets the needs of the subordinate working class. Under communism, every school will be a place that meets the needs of its students. Education would be class conscious, anti-imperialist, anti-racist, and anti-sexist. Communism needs the workers to be educated to help to remake the world. The fight for school integration now is an opportunity to root this education in the struggle against the bosses whom we will have to defeat to win the world we deserve.

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