Alabama miners strike inspires our class coast-to-coast

The following letter is from a participant of the Alabama project. See page 3.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been supporting the coal miners in Tuscaloosa, Alabama as they continue their nine-month long strike against the Warrior Met Coal Company, the longest strike in the state’s history. They are fighting against life-threatening conditions on the job to have a contract guaranteeing better pay and medical coverage. 1,100 Black and white workers have been working together as intimidation and armed violence from scabs and a near-total media blackout on the strike continues.

This past weekend, two east coast Progressive Labor Party-sponsored groups of professors, students, and supporters helped prepare meals, gift bags, presents, and decorations for a Christmas party at the union hall for the families of the miners. The turnout was amazing, and the families enjoyed the festivities.

We had the privilege of meeting one of the miner families in their home as they were being interviewed about the strike and the interviewed miner’s experience working at Amazon. From the beginning, we were welcomed with Southern hospitality and enthusiasm. Throughout discussions, setting up for events, and the party turnout, multiracial and multigenerational unity were in full effect. Grandparents and children helped, and have been vital parts of the strike effort.

During the party, PL’ers met with and discussed CHALLENGE with a Black woman miner and her husband and child. Everyone involved had a role and blew away the expectations of the organizers of the United Mine Workers of America Auxiliary. Each aspect reinforced and set the example for all workers fighting the capitalist system.

There may be another trip to Alabama in the coming months, as the miners expect to continue their strike. Even an agreed upon contract as early as January 2022 would still leave them without pay for several weeks (as paperwork and processing runs inefficiently—a staple of capitalism). Until then, the PLP will continue to stand in solidarity with the miners and all workers striking for the bare minimum that is refused by the broken capitalist system.

Multiracial solidarity, comradely struggle

Following up on previous trips to Alabama throughout the fall, we were warmly invited to put our solidarity in action during this trip to help the UMWA Women’s Auxiliary fill grocery bags with much-needed food for the miners’ families. We learned about the crucial importance of the donations to the UMWA Strike Pantry and how welcomed letters of support have been.

We also learned how proud the miners in this local District 20 are for being historically multiracial. Black and white miners and their families understood their rank-and-file multiracial unity has

Continued on page 3
On January 3, as the two-year-old, out-of-control pandemic exposed the criminal incompetence and callous negligence of capitalism, infections hit a record 2.5 million each day. Workers are under siege from a new wave of movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, pogroms, and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power—governments, armies, police, schools, and media—maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and by the arrows of its class ideology, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real fool. The $93 billion a day—more than the combined pre-tax profits of $34 billion—of a top 100 capitalist gang, it’s 0.1 percent. How can this be? To avoid the “risk” of workers coming together to oppose their fate.

Criminals mandating profit over workers’ health

On January 3, as the two-year-old, out-of-control pandemic exposed the criminal incompetence and callous negligence of capitalism, infections hit a record 2.5 million each day. Workers are under siege from a new wave of movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

On December 27, in a move “to minimize rising disruptions to the economy” (NYT, 12/27/21), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control cut its recommended isolation time for infected Covid patients from ten days to five (see page 5). Per Rochelle Walensky, the latest Nazi doctor to serve as the CDC’s director, there was no need for workers to test themselves even after they returned to work—“convenient omission,” since Covid tests are either unavailable or unaffordable one year into the bungling Biden administration. According to the CDC, it was okay if these infected workers—teachers, health care workers, flight attendants—were asymptomatic, as long as their symptoms were “resolving.”

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/DESAIRO articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the fundamental alliance between the Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up an “authority” among any particular individual.

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

Whatever the factors, this racist inequality presents a grave danger to the entire international working class. “The longer the virus continues to spread unchecked,” said Benjamin Schreiber, deputy chief of UNICEF’s global immunization program, “the higher risk of more deadly or contagious variants emerging. Vaccine equity is not charity; it is an epidemiologi- cal necessity” (NYT, 12/19/21).

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On January 4, with U.S. hospitalizations up 51 percent over the previous two weeks, the CDC doubled down and reaffirmed that no testing was needed. “These updates ensure people can safely continue their daily lives,” Walensky said. But one day later, after being slammed by the American Medical Association for putting patients “at risk” and potentially overwhelming the health care system (yahoos/news, 1/5), the agency tweaked its guidelines yet again to suggest that infect- ed people could take a test if they “have access” and “want it.”

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The new guidelines were immediately hailed by the bosses and retail and service workers. Those resistant were jeopardized by so many workers staying home sick. On January 4, with U.S. hospitalizations up 51 percent over the previous two weeks, the CDC doubled down and reaffirmed that no testing was needed. “These updates ensure people can safely continue their daily lives,” Walensky said. But one day later, after being slammed by the American Medical Association for putting patients “at risk” and potentially overwhelming

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NEWARK, NJ - A multi-racial group of over 25 workers rallied in downtown Newark to call for the immediate release of Justin Rodwell and to get the charges dropped against the Rodwell/Spivey brothers. Since June 2021, the Newark Police Department (NPD) has stalked, harassed, terrorized, and arrest- ed members of the Rodwell/Spivey family, after undercover police illegally and brutally stopped and frisked one of their family members and the Rod- well/Spivey brothers and their neighbors bravely stepped in.

For nearly seven months now Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and our class brothers and sisters have been fighting back in Newark until justice for the Rodwell/Spivey family and workers internationally is served. In the end only a communist revolution can truly break our chains, but until then rallies like the one we organized spread PLP's revolution- ary ideas to workers. They also develop new work- ing class leaders and strengthen our confidence in the working class to build a mass communist movement instead of depending on politicians, like Newark's racist mayor Ras Baraka, to pass weak liberal reforms.

PLP digs into class struggle strikes on new comrades

Continued from page 1

been, and is, one of the greatest strengths of this strike. Throughout the week, sharp, comradely dis- cussions were held ranging from communism to the strategy and tactics of the strike.

Miners dig in, teach us how it's done

During the strike, we learned strategy and re- form, struggle points and counterpoints were raised and heard throughout days of discussion. Disagree- ments remain, however, particularly over how to ap- proach the passive "wait and see" legal strategy of union misleadership versus the seething desire for militancy among the rank-and-file.

As the miners and their families respected our efforts and our politics, we also gained deeper re- spect and admiration for their daily struggle to last "one day longer." As one worker put it, "many of these guys are just getting used to the idea that nei- ther (Donald) Trump nor (Joe) Biden is gonna save us. Until a few months ago they never met a com- munist or knew what one was. Now they talk about communism and capitalism. That's a big deal. And y'all should remember this is a long-term process and a long-term fight."

During our trip, miners and their families would ask us, "what is communism?" As one of our com- rades answered, it's a world where workers like us run the entire world for workers like us, without money or borders. It takes communist revolution to put our class in power.

Liberal bosses no friend of the working class

One of PLP's important ideas, the dangers of lib- eral bosses, is playing out for all to see. With the min- ers fighting the bosses and the court injunctions, the International President of UMWA should be attack- ing West Virginia Democrat Senator Joe Manchin, notoriously in the pocket of the coal bosses.

Instead, the UMWA president is appealing to Manchin to join with the rest of the Big Fascists in the U.S. ruling class and to support Biden's "Build Back Better" to rebuild U.S. imperialism. Our class cannot rely on the liberal bosses. We must fight to win what we can from the bosses in the short term while also preparing our entire class for a commu- nist revolution by building an international PLP. We can’t lose sight of either goal.

Communism now!

Winning the strike would be a victory against BlackRock and the U.S. capitalist class. Win or lose the strike, however, recruiting miners like those at Warrior Met and industrial workers to help lead PLP and the entire international working class to com- munist revolution is a stunning victory for the international working class.

Through the strike and our Party's participation in the struggle a new comrade has joined PLP and miners, families and friends are interested in a PL study group. There is a renewed determination and commitment from every comrade as we prepare for May Day 2022. JOIN US!!

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January 19, 2022 • CHALLENGE • page 3

By organizing and fighting back we build confi- dence in the working class. That's what we did for weeks before the rally. We went to neighborhoods all across Newark. We distributed flyers, made con- tact, and heard stories from workers about their experiences with the Newark Police Department and Essex County Sheriff's Officers. Ms. Rodwell told PLP members after leafleting, "A lot of people told me they will come out, but they don't show up. You all ... came to me and said let's go." She gave us credit for our organizing efforts, but it was her leadership that has developed during this period.

She is a respected leader in her neighborhood. Workers approached her to give her hugs and their contact information. One woman took extra flyers to pass out at a rally.

Her leadership is also flourishing in the defense committee. After high Covid-19 numbers and fights within the local jail, she proposed going to meet with administrators to request the release of prisoners that she believes are needed.

These liberal reforms still have a strong hold on the working class. Liberal groups in Newark like the Newark NAACP push for the CCRB. It's their solution to racist police terror. It's also one of the initiatives of Baraka. Some liberal finance capitalists (Big Fasc- cists, see Glossary, p. 6), see these review boards as an alternative to anticop fightback. It's a way to drain working class energy and anger through this bureaucratic ploy. It also promotes the idea that the police can serve the working class. It's an illusion. From Colombia to Nigeria, the police have always been tools of the capitalist ruling class. A civilian review board may change the appearance of polic- ing, but it will never change the essence of policing.

Working class needs revolutionary anticop leaders

The ruling class puts in overtime trying to con- vince workers to support politicians and their lib- eral reforms. A cop review board can't stop the vio- lence we see while we starve. This struggle is not only exposing many of these liberal leaders but also builds a new fighting class of leaders like Ms. Rodwell - something the bosses fear. 

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CDC says Can’t Disrupt Capitalism

As the ruling-class owned CDC announced that Covid-19 infections only require a five-day quarantine instead of 10, workers worldwide can see that this decision is profit driven (see editorial, page 2).

Following their conversation with the Delta airlines CEO, the CDC reinforced that cashing in on overpriced airline seats was more important than the lives of the workers who are now being required to return to work, sick, exhausted, and infectious to their fellow class sisters and brothers.

In the face of exploitation, these humorous memes all shed light on one thing: because of our class position and the experience of exploitation, our class can see through the lies that ruling class bosses throw at us. With struggle and conversation, these memes can be an opportunity to develop class consciousness and unity among our co-workers, friends, classmates, and family.

To put it bluntly in the words of Malcolm X, truth is on the side of the oppressed.

Follow us on twitter, facebook, and instagram at @PLPchallenge

Letter

CDC: criminal, diseased, capitalist

This is not the first time the CDC has implemented violent recommendations in favor of the bosses and their profits. In the summer of 2021, while Covid-19 cases were at a record-low since the beginning of the pandemic, the CDC carelessly recommended that vaccinated individuals not be required to wear masks while in public spaces even though vaccinated people could still contract and spread the virus to others regardless of ‘vaccination status. All to create more profits in the bosses’ economy. Of course, cases skyrocketed nationwide by the end of the summer.

This latest surge comes as healthcare workers across the board continue to battle racist and sexist staffing shortages, burnout, and overflows of hospital admissions. Although health care under capitalism has always essentially been about profit, the pandemic has truly laid bare how inadequate and ill-prepared the system really is.

We as workers keep each other safe. The CDC is not the epitome of scientific knowledge. In fact, their scientific pursuit is inherently tied to the profiteering of U.S. imperialism. They’re a tool of the capitalist state that does not fundamentally care if workers live or die.

This is why Progressive Labor Party needs you! As we continue to build a base with more scientists and healthcare workers, we can better understand science from a materialist-communist lens and organize to destroy capitalism’s racist violence.

Letter

Sickening working conditions

How would you feel if you were forced to work involuntary overtime for a different city agency after you worked a full work week at your regular job? Well that is the reality that I faced after having Covid-19, being vaccinated, and returning to work.

I am a bit of a trouble maker so when I was asked if I had done the required 10 hours of weekly overtime I said “no, working my regular hours is all I can do with my family responsibilities.”

I felt that my coworkers and I were being tricked into doing work we hadn’t been hired to do. When I asked to see written documentation of requirements for overtime, there was no response. When I called my union reps, I also got no response.

Bosses try to trick us every day to force us to do more work. If we are doing two different jobs we should get two paychecks or better still, hire a second worker to do the extra work. I look forward to reading and sharing how others in the Progressive Labor Party and their friends are confronting similar attempts by bosses to use Covid-19 conditions to increase workloads. Here in my office, my co-workers and I need to sit down and plan on how we can fight this.
Murderous LAPD hides behind liberal racism

Continued from page 4

About one third of all police shoot- ings in LA (including non-fatal) are of workers who are suffering some degree of mental ill- ness (LA Times, 12/28/21). At the national- level, “more than one in five” workers killed by the police have mental illnesses and 1,400 people with mental illnesses have been murdered by the cops since 2015 (NBCNews, 5/21/21).1

This is what fascism looks like!

Last November, the LA mayor and City Council voted to both increase the LAPD budget in spite of calls to defund, while simultaneously voting to remove po- lice accountability called “non-violent mental health response teams.”

None of these changes, however, would have saved the lives of Alex Flo- res, David Flores, Daniel Hernandez, Nicholas Burgos, David Ordaz Jr. or Mar- co Vazquez Jr., who were all experienc- ing mental crises. The LAPD used them as cover to avoid another rampage of police killings, which cramps are handed out to the working class in an attempt to pacify fightback from the masses. Following this initial action, the alliance of organizations involved called a rally and march to demand funds to the thousands of workers who were left empty handed. The call was answered! The rally started with testimony from immigrant workers against oppression explaining how they’ve received nothing from the “authori- ties.”

After the rally we marched to the gov- ernor’s office where “invited politicians” gave speeches and select workers were in- dignous clothing. Our comrades, however, called out that these events laced with lib- eral socialism and anti-racism politics won’t solve workers problems.

We do continue to participate though as a way to connect with our friends and build future comrade alliances. We use these opportunities to share Party changes and pass out copies of CHALLENGE.

This is all done in the name of raising international solidarity with workers and farmers around the world to road to communist revolution. The workers united will never be defeated!

Hunger strike leaves workers starving for revolution

Comrades, greetings from New York! We continue to be involved in community organizations. One of the latest actions in which we participated was a “Hunger Strike for Excluded Immigrant Workers” (exclud- ed from funds during the pandemic). Al- though the initial hunger strike didn’t result in victory, in reality the state funds allotted to these workers was not enough, so those of us in Progressives (PLP) have shown mil- lions of working-class people everywhere that the capitalist bosses prioritize profit over human lives.

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John Brown’s legacy: violent revolution necessary, not ‘crazy’

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John Brown’s legacy:

violent revolution
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Hunger strike leaves workers
starving for revolution

Comrades, greetings from New York! We continue to be involved in community organizations. One of the latest actions in which we participated was a “Hunger Strike for Excluded Immigrant Workers” (exclud- ed from funds during the pandemic). Al- though the initial hunger strike didn’t result in victory, in reality the state funds allotted to these workers was not enough, so those of us in Progressives (PLP) have shown mil- lions of working-class people everywhere that the capitalist bosses prioritize profit over human lives.

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**Glossary**

**Capitalist fascists:** Capitalist response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the chaotic and productive chaos that capitalism has marked by the ruling cap- italists disciplining their working class and repressing to the urgent needs of the capi- talist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, in- cluding violence. To build unity within their class and to protect their class from the masses, they rely on nationalist policies and calls for sac- rifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

**Big Fascists:** The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capi- talist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They rep- resent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multi- national banks like Chase and Citibank, multina- tional oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big au- tomakers, Boeing, Amaz- on, and the major media conglomerates. They are the domi- nant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the sweet deal to Euro- pe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to build a huge, militarical force for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

**Small Fascists:** The Small Fascists are a group of domestically ori- ented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are apparently willing to pay taxes to keep troops in the Middle East and in general to maintain the militar- ies and invasions. They’re willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by smaller Navy, marines, Army, and Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

**Fascism**

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1950s ‘Green Revolution’

Rockefeller’s ploy to superexploit migrant workers

**MEXICO—**The “Green Revolution” of the 1950’s was a ploy of the Rockefeller Foundation to sell high-yield wheat—along with fertilizer and pesticides—to Mexico. In 1938, President Cardenas nationalized the oil industry, cutting out Rockefeller’s Standard Oil interests. Cardenas promoted land reform, but restricted it under the laws of capitalism. Later in 1943, President Manuel Ávila Camacho, promoted industrialization. Camacho saw Rockefeller and his Green Revolution as a way to move the workforce off the urban farmlands into the factories as cheap labor.

Capitalists make deals like this all the time, at the expense of the working class. It soon became clear that capitalist land reform in Mexico yielded quickly to the pressures of imperialism. Only communist collectivization of the land—not for profit, but to promote healthy organic farming—can provide nourishment to the working class and sustain the earth.

At first, in the 50s, farmers grew more wheat, some of it to make beer. Mexico became self-sufficient in wheat production by 1951 and wealthy. Mexico became self-sufficient in wheat and rice, and millions of farmers, saddled by debt, were forced to sell their land and go work for factory bosses. Consequently Mexic-o’s farmers began a mass emigration to the United States to feed their families.

But the ruling revolution didn’t stop in Mexico. Rockefeller spread the petrochemical fertilizers and pesticides and hybrid seeds which they were supposed to kill became resistant to pesticides. The hybrid plants require large amounts of pesticides and fertilizers that the original Mexican wheat didn’t need. Meanwhile, thousands of farmers couldn’t afford the pesticide/fertilizer packets and the hybrid seeds that had to be purchased year after year. Just as Camacho predicted, they went bankrupt and had to leave the farms for the factories in the city.

By 1962 Africa was under Rockefeller’s ploy to superexploit migrant workers from Rwanda, carrying out atrocities and massacres of peasants and dispossessed large swaths of land to feed their families. Rockefeller’s ploy to superexploit migrant workers.

**U.S. fear of China-dominated world leads to war preparation**

Foreign Affairs, January/February – In [China President ] Xi’s vision, a unified and resurgent China would be on par with or would surpass the United States to feed their families. China is the preeminent power in Asia, and its maritime domain has expanded to include control over contested areas in the East China and South China Seas. The United States has retreated back across the Pacific to assume its rightful place as an Atlantic power. China’s influence also radiates through the world via infrastructure ranging from ports, railways, and bases.

China’s behavior has … reenergized the Quad partnership, which includes Australia, India, Japan, and the United States; spurred the establishment of a new trilateral security pact among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and prompted several European countries, including France, Germany, and the Netherlands, along with NATO, to deepen their security engagement in the Asia-Pacific.

**Pandemic just another example of super-exploitation of U.S. Black workers**

Brookings, 12/20/21 – Earlier this year, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) published data showing a 1.5-year decline in national life expectancy in 2020, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which took the lives of approximately 375,000 Americans that year. The NCHS reported that white Americans’ life expectancy declined by 1.2 years; for Black Americans, that number was 2.9 years.

This racial disparity in life expectancy is a lagging indicator of disparities that have existed throughout the pandemic. According to the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, Black people are 1.1 times more likely than white people to contract COVID-19; 2.8 times more likely to be hospitalized with the virus; and two times more likely to die from it. These disparities help to explain why, when adjusting for age, Black people account for 22.1% of the nation’s COVID-19 deaths despite only comprising 12.8% of the population. Because de jure and de facto segregation have occurred through place-based discrimination: disproportionate exposure to pollution and hazardous waste, harmful zoning practices, and post-disaster displacement, to name a few.

Uganda invades mineral-rich Democratic Republic of Congo

BBC, 12/4/21 – Ugandan forces have once again crossed the country’s western border to go into the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Congolese government said it had invited its neighbour’s armed forces into the country as the ADF is one of many armed groups wreaking havoc in eastern DR Congo. Previous incursions have been extremely controversial with troops in the past fighting soldiers from Rwanda, carrying out atrocities and plundering the country’s natural resources.

The fighting has become as much about control of the country’s riches as political power. Some neighbouring countries have been accused of backing rebels in order to benefit from the chaos through plunder.

Russia gears up for war in Ukraine

NY Times, 12/6/21 – Machine gun fire broke the stillness just after 8 p.m. when Capt. Denis Branitski was midway through the evening patrol. The shots came in sporadic bursts and were close by, fired by Russian-backed separatists whose positions were obscured in the darkness. Only when the flash of a rocket-propelled grenade illuminated the newly fallen snow did Captain Branitski break his stride, briefly pausing to take cover before moving on. This is what the war has been like for years, a slow, bloody grind that set in after both sides fought to a stalemate over territory seized by Russian-backed forces in 2014. Now Ukrainian and Western officials say something more ominous could be building.

In recent weeks, they have warned that Russia was erecting the architecture for significant military action, possibly even a full-fledged invasion. U.S. intelligence officials have assessed that Moscow has drawn up plans for a military offensive involving an estimated 175,000 troops to begin as early as next year. Recent satellite photos show a buildup in equipment, including tanks and artillery.
In 2021 the international working class said:

STAND UP FIGHT BACK!

The year 2021 affirmed how workers worldwide are fed up with this diseased system. Capitalism functions on this logic: capitalists profit from exploitation and division, thus mangling or killing us, then use reforms to strangle any rising working-class consciousness. When we recount that 281 million workers have been infected by Covid-19 and 5 million are dead, we realize just how deadly reforms are for our class. Nothing short of communism will immunize workers and youth from the horrors of this profit system.

U.S. President Joe Biden is giving war-mongering vibes; he signed his intentions for the New Year with a $768 billion military bill, the largest since World War II (NYT, 12/21). Goodbye 20-year war in Afghanistan, hello World War III preparation. As the U.S., China, and Russia bosses prepare to make it out, it will be at the expense of the working class. Have workers experienced enough? Could it be that they have truly started to form a better way? Do they say so?

The desppicable ruling class pushes us for go “back to business as usual” (see page 2) while in our schools and jobs, we are getting sick en masse, hospitals are filling up with Covid-19 infected children, evictions are coming, with police enforcement.

If we learned anything from 2021, it is that if one section of our class is under attack, that attack will soon spread to another. That is the way the infectious system of capitalism works. In order to smash Covid-19 and this racist, sexist system for good, we must think and act collectively across borders. That is what Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights for – an international, communist world where the needs of ALL workers are primary.

Awaken ye workers strike, rise, revolt!

As bosses are demanding more productivity during the pandemic, workers declared NO MAS (no more) and striked against killer working conditions, turning their workspaces into schools for communism.

Colombia: PL’ers protested beside workers and students in the midst of capitalist crisis and are going underground to build communist fightback. Our class led national strikes on the ground against pandemic death, unemployment, tax hikes that line the pockets of President Iván Duque Márquez. We rebelled against the electoral circuses while pushing workers to fight for a worker-led revolution.

Alabama: Workers in Washington D.C., New York City, and New Jersey responded to PLP’s call to join in solidarity with Black warehouse workers unionizing in Bessemer, AL, and made trips to unite with Black and white miners right up the road from the Amazon warehouse.

A delegation of students and City University of New York (CUNY) faculty met with striking Warrior Met Coal miners. Since April of last year, miners have been striking for higher wages, benefits and time off after the company broke off negotiations with their local union. One of Warrior Met Coal’s owners is Black Rock, a major investor in ICE detention centers and an honored guest at a CUNY college event. Same enemy, same fight! Students traveled down and learned from their efforts, building confidence in workers ability to feed and care for each other in the midst of struggle (see page 8).

New York City: CUNY students and faculty members marched to remove the Klan in Blue from John Jay college and the carceral state altogether.

After the assassination then-president Jovenel Moïse PL’ers in Brooklyn showed solidarity with workers in Haiti and the raging issues of mass unemployment, hunger, need for clean water, decent housing, medical care and education on the island.

Haiti: After another devastating earthquake, PL’ers led mutual aid efforts with food, water, surveying of damage and an exchange of communist ideas.

Chicago: 2,000 workers protested against Chica-go’s Democratic and Black leadership led by Mayor Lori Lightfoot and State Attorney Kim Foxx for their hand in the police murder of 13-year-old Adam Toledo and state terror against Black and Latin workers.

Thousands of health care workers, majority of them Black and Latin women, in Cook County striked against racist service cuts and hospital closings.

Newark, NJ: New and veteran comrades are building with and offering communist leadership to Black and Latin working class families fighting back against police terror and deteriorating housing conditions. This past summer PL’ers led a summer project with study action groups based around these struggles, calling out the liberal misleadership of Mayor Ras Baraka.

Only solution is communist revolution

Although this is a period of mass death and detention, it’s been a time of responsibility for communists to maintain ties and unity with workers, lead dialectical study groups, and turn reform fights into schools for communism. Workers CAN run a communist society; we’re putting that potential into practice already but we need to struggle with each other against selfish, individualist ideas that say workers are to blame for our conditions. Nothing will ever change if we rely on capitalist, self-serving politicians.

For some, January 2021 was filled with wary relief that U.S. President Biden would steer away from Covid-19, erase student loan debt, and workers, documented or undocumented, would receive some protection and support in the pandemic. Yet, each day we wake, the more capitalist bosses’ profit intentions and disarray are exposed (see page 5).

With this realization, paired with collective leadership, workers must continue to rise up and strike for better wages, worker protections and provide a glimpse of how we can turn an impending world war into a class war, a class war for a communist future. A communist world where international, collective thought, building, and strategy is the only way to break this heavy, racist, sexist ball and chain! Join PLP to make it happen!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is the Friday evening of January 14. Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.plp.org.

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See box on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.