

CHALLENGE



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Obama's 'Job' Program More Troops, More Wars

At West Point on December 1, Obama announced a major "jobs program." He's sending 30,000 more troops (and as many mercenaries) to "work" in Afghanistan. His coming force of over 200,000 (including "battlefield contractors") must perform several critical tasks for U.S. imperialism. One is securing the ground for a gas pipeline planned to bypass both Iran and Russia (see below). Another involves spreading combat operations into neighboring Pakistan.

But Obama's ultimate goal is making Afghanistan a strategic beachhead against the rising strength of U.S. rivals, Iran, China and Russia. Afghanistan borders Iran to the west and China to the east. To the north lie Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, former Soviet states that Putin is determined to reunite in a new Russian Empire.

At Stake for U.S. Rulers: Afghan Pipeline to Spoil Iranian, Russian Gas Dominance

According to the NY Times (12/2/09), "The bulk of new combat forces approved by President Obama would be sent to southern Afghanistan, an area including Helmand and Kandahar Provinces." It just so happens that the proposed U.S.-funded Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline route runs right through Helmand and Kandahar.

Raja Karthikeya, a researcher at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think-tank which aided Obama's lengthy Afghan deliberations, wrote, "Tapping into the energy resources of Central Asia (for example, through the trans-Afghanistan or TAPI pipeline) would help cater to [India's and Pakistan's] energy demand and also reduce their disproportionate dependence on the Middle East" [that is, Iran]. India and Pakistan already get the bulk of their gas imports from Iran. And a proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas line, competing head to head with TAPI, is much closer to completion.

Obama also wants TAPI, and the armed force to guarantee it, to thwart Russia's efforts to control Turkmen gas exports.

Obama couldn't mention U.S. rulers' blatant pipeline profit motive. But he had plenty to say about preventing Islamic militants from taking over nuclear-armed Pakistan. And two days later the Times (12/3/09) reported, "The White House has authorized an expansion of the C.I.A.'s drone program in Pakistan's lawless tribal area."

Obama's West Point speech referred obliquely but unmistakably to his readiness to wage war on Islamists for that grand prize of energy resources, Saudi Arabia. "We will have to be nimble and precise in our use of military power. Where al Qaeda and its allies attempt to establish a foothold — whether in Somalia or Yemen or elsewhere — they must be confronted by growing pressure and strong partnerships." Recent pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia starkly dramatize the strategic position of Somalia in commanding shipping lanes for Saudi crude. And Yemen sits on the Arabian Peninsula itself, just miles from the vast Saudi oil fields.

Another topic Obama omitted was Afghanistan's geo-strategic importance. The Pentagon hopes to make its Bagram base and 30 others in Afghanistan — like Ramstein in Germany, Okinawa in Japan, Bondsteel in Kosovo and its string of bases in Iraq — a vast outpost of U.S. military might aimed directly at potential foes in a Third World War. The rulers of Iran, China and Russia are all targeting Afghanistan's vast mineral riches and its geo-strategic position.



Map of the Mid-east, showing the BTC, India-Pakistan, and TAPI pipelines

The rulers of Iran, China and Russia are all targeting Afghanistan's vast mineral riches and its geo-strategic position.

Obama Lies, Workers Die

Balancing this lie by omission in his West Point manifesto, Obama openly fabricated history on behalf of U.S. imperialism. He said, "Unlike the great powers of old, we have not sought world domination. Our union was founded in resistance to oppression. We do not seek to occupy other nations. We will not claim another nation's resources or target other peoples because their faith or ethnicity is different from ours."

But the unvarnished truth is the U.S. Constitution was founded on oppression, enslaving millions of Africans and on genocidal wars against Native Americans. Through its War of Independence it shifted slave-trading and slave-holding profits from Britain to Boston, New York and Virginia.

Today the U.S. war machine has a half million troops in 737 overseas bases in 130 countries and a 300-plus ship navy to help Exxon Mobil and JP Morgan dominate captive foreign "customers." U.S. troops not only effectively occupy Iraq and Afghanistan but maintain 50,000 troops and six bases in South Korea, six military bases in Japan-Okinawa and 50,000 troops on 16 military bases in Germany.

President Jimmy Carter made seizing other nations' resources a policy. He said, "The United States has a right to the world's resources. We must not let them be hoarded by a few nations. We must not let them be used against the interests of the United States."

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continued on p. 2

TRANSIT>>

D.C. Transit Union Election Campaign Expands Base for PLP
page 3

SCHOOLS>>

Teachers Fight School Bosses' Witchhunt
page 3

ANTI-WAR>>

Queens Students Demand: U.S. Out of Afghanistan!
page 3

STRIKES>>

Undocumented Workers Deal French Bosses Blow for Blow
page 5

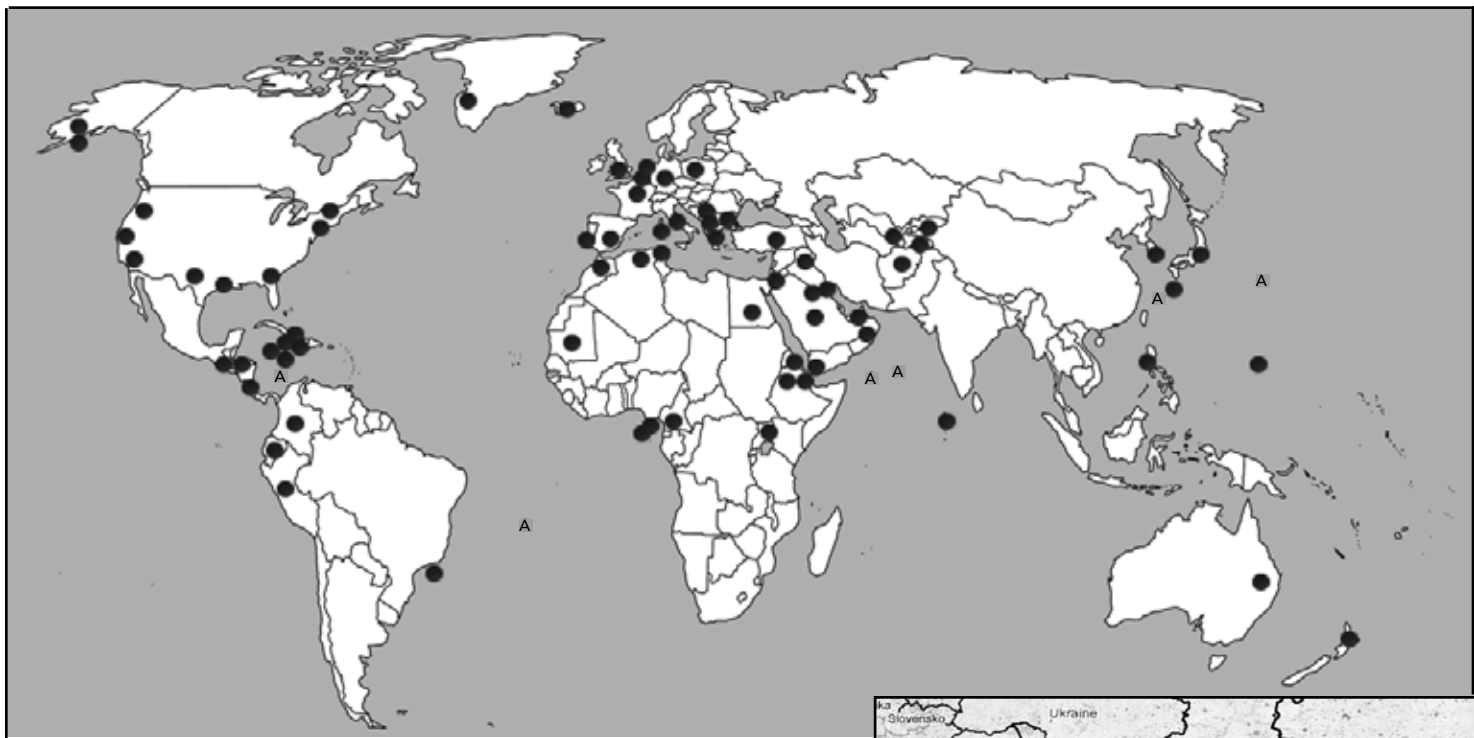
INTERNATIONAL>

Colombia: University Students Fight Rulers' Fascist Repression
page 7

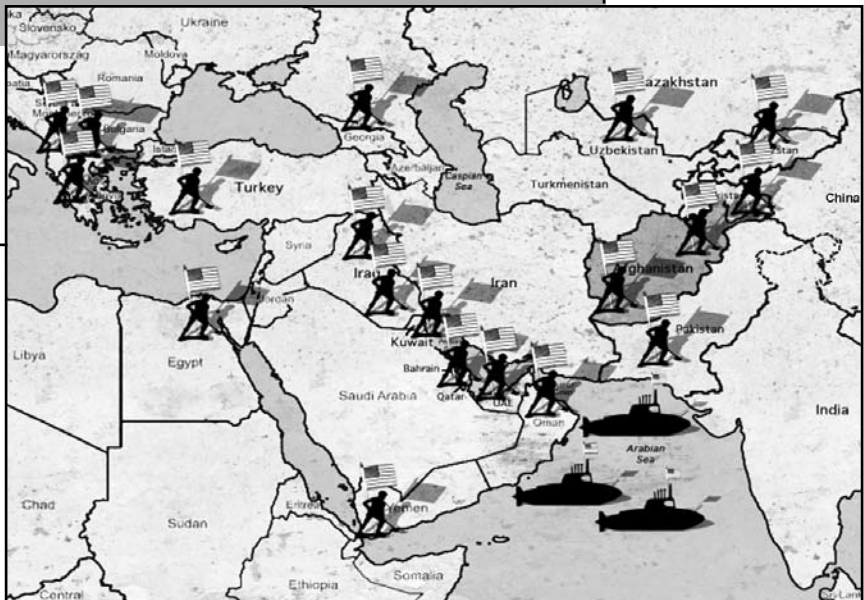
IMPERIALISM>>

U.S. Bosses Use 'Human Rights' As Cover for Their Mass Murder
page 8

Obama's 'Job' Program: More Troops, More Wars



Thirteen U.S. aircraft carrier groups (represented by 'A' on map) constitute huge floating bases spread around the globe. Each group comprises approximately 15 ships and 14,000 military personnel — army, navy and air force. The total for all 13 groups is 170,000 troops, 195 ships, and 910 aircraft. Black dots represent some of the 737 U.S. military bases in 130 countries worldwide.



Mid-east region — soldiers represent U.S. military bases

Obama said, "Unlike the great powers of old, we have not sought world domination.... We do not seek to occupy other nations. We will not claim another nation's resources..."

OUR FIGHT

- ★ **Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to smash capitalism — wage slavery. While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions all over the world.**
- ★ **Capitalism returned to the Soviet Union and China because socialism failed to wipe out many aspects of the profit system, like wages and division of labor.**
- ★ **Capitalism inevitably leads to wars. PLP organizes workers, students and soldiers to turn these wars into a revolution for communism — the dictatorship of the proletariat. This fight requires a mass Red Army led by the communist PLP.**
- ★ **Communism means working collectively to build a society where sharing is based on need. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.**
- ★ **Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of race.**
- ★ **Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and traditional gender roles created by class society.**
- ★ **Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One International working class, one world, one Party.**
- ★ **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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continued from p. 1

vital resources — especially oil — an official U.S. doctrine, as U.S.-led invasions of Kuwait and Iraq (twice) prove. And U.S. imperialists have long used racism to target "others," from nuclear genocide at Hiroshima and Nagasaki to further anti-Asian racist atrocities in Korea and Vietnam to the anti-Islamic indoctrination of today's GIs.

Obama Invokes World War II 'Sacrifice' that Led to U.S. Rulers' Global Supremacy — but Can't Yet Enforce It

Obama said, "Since the days of Franklin Roosevelt, and the service and sacrifice of our grandparents, our country has borne a special burden in global affairs." But since Kennedy's assassination, deep partisan differences have made it very hard for presidents to coerce the entire U.S. capitalist class to act in the interests of its imperialist wing. It has been more than four decades since Kennedy, seeking capital for his Vietnam War, forcibly reversed U.S. Steel's price-hikes.

For now the Obama administration allows obscene bonuses for Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan bankers. Although U.S. imperialism's wars require tapping into their trillions, these bankers don't seem to want to "sacrifice" for

the long-term class interests of U.S. capitalism.

As for winning the working class to sacrifice for this same U.S. imperialism, insufficient communist leadership in the working-class movement eases Obama's assault on jobs and wages, the harshest since the Great Depression.

Furthermore, Obama finds it difficult to restore the draft. Ultra-liberal and ultra-imperialist (they go together) NY Times columnist Frank Rich, lamented this problem (12/6/09): "We'd need a minimal force of 568,000...to fight a proper counterinsurgency in Afghanistan" but "the president conspicuously left unmentioned... the draft." Imperialist U.S. rulers must find a way to restore it despite widespread anti-draft sentiment persisting since the Vietnam War era.

Danger and Opportunity

The full-scale military mobilization Obama and his masters are aiming for holds both danger and opportunity for the working class. Pay cuts, police-state racist terror, and forced, deadly overseas deployments await us. So do openings for us to organize militant anti-imperialist, anti-racist, pro-worker actions against these attacks.

We can expose the war-makers' profit motive and help build a new international communist movement. Mass-murdering U.S. imperialists will likely launch global war someday. This would create the conditions for a working-class revolution, but that's not automatic. It depends on PLP doing our job of winning masses of workers, soldiers and students to communism. Everything we do today comprises the necessary building blocks towards that future. ☺

Why Articles Are Not Signed

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.



D.C. Transit Union Election Campaign Expands Base for PLP

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 2 — Tonight, after a hard-fought campaign for the presidency of Local 689, Amalgamated Transit Union, 800 workers voted for Mike Golash, about 18% of those who voted. In his bus garage, employing over 200 workers, he secured over 90% of the votes.

The fact that 800 mainly black, blue-collar workers supported a white, open communist refutes the lie that black workers are wedded to nationalism and can't understand their class interests. These 800 will become the core of the multi-racial forces that will lead the battle against capitalist exploitation in D.C. and perhaps more broadly.

The campaign showed stark differences in strategy for the coming battles against the bosses. Mike, a well-known communist and militant, called for workers to rely on themselves to fight hard against management, arguing that capitalism's crisis has given the Metro bosses a golden opportunity to justify "kicking us while we're down." Mike and his supporters organized a protest demonstration at Metro headquarters during a November Metro Board meeting attended by many workers and included a bold new contingent from Western garage.

Jackie Jeter, the incumbent (who was re-elect-

ed), ran on the slogan, "Hold Fast," essentially relying on politicians, courts and arbitrators, friends in management and "friends in high places" to advance workers' interests. She advocates simply to lie low and hope that the courts work in the workers' favor. What an illusion!

The communist strategy of relying on the working class makes sense since history has constantly shown us that the bosses, their politicians and their judges are always trying to drive down our standard of living in order to maximize the profits for their class and line their own pockets. We have no "friends in high places," only phony politicians who smile in our face while stabbing us in the back.

Many workers, while increasingly angry over the attacks on them, do not recognize their systemic SOURCE. The bosses have no choice but to attack, attack, attack. It's built into the very nature of capitalist cutthroat competition. The economic crisis of huge racist unemployment, massive home foreclosures, and the enormous economic drain from the bosses' endless wars is forcing them into their current posture.

It's not just a temporary problem for the bosses. Until more workers understand the drastic nature of the current period, many will still be trapped

into following the sellout union misleaders and liberal politicians. More communists are needed to provide this very realistic analysis. Otherwise, most workers will probably not adopt a more militant and class-conscious posture and reject the lies and fear mongering from pro-capitalist sellout union leaders and the patriotic, anti-communist nonsense from the media and the educational system.

Strikingly, where there has been a consistent communist presence for over 30 years at the Northern garage, workers have dramatically demonstrated their growing consciousness, their rejection of anti-communism and their willingness to back a militant, anti-racist, fighting program.

A big advance for this process was the development of an increasing number of workers who actively worked in Mike's campaign. They leafleted, met with other workers and served as barn captains and poll watchers. Over 100 rank-and-file workers joined Mike's Facebook campaign site. In the coming period, as the bosses' attacks sharpen, we should expect to see these supporters turn into PLP communist captains at each of the garages and maintenance yards, and prepare to turn the bosses' attacks into sustained, militant and ultimately communist revolutionary struggle. ☸

Teachers Fight School Bosses' Witchhunt

BROOKLYN, NY, November 30 — The administration of our school is on the warpath again. They want to intimidate teachers into passively obeying orders. If teachers stand up for something positive for the students, they get attacked. The principal spends much of his time investigating staff members. As far as "improving" the school, they are interested mainly in appearances. Black and Latino students can go a month without a regular teacher and as long as they are quiet, the administration ignores the situation. But as soon as students circulate a petition, suddenly a teacher is found. It's just one manifestation of the vicious racism in many NYC public schools.

Communist teachers have a vision for our students that goes way beyond being obedient, passive workers as the U.S. bosses increase their local wars and prepare for world war. As we work hard to teach our students academic and vocational skills, we also want them to have an understanding that enables them to be the future leaders of the world. This means we have to unite parents, students and teachers in struggle against the vicious racist conditions in our schools as we build a revolutionary communist movement for a better world.

We have worked hard to build such a movement in our school. Our students do well on tests. We also take part in various enriching afterschool activities. We have taken students to serve the working class in post-Katrina New Orleans several times. Recently, we traveled to commemorate John Brown's anti-racist raid in Harper's Ferry. Parents have enthusiastically supported and participated in these activities. We have organized socials and study groups and discussions with students, teachers and parents. We distribute up to 100 CHALLENGES each issue. We have

protested layoffs and cutbacks. Every time students get involved with our activities, the principal starts calling in teachers looking for informers against us.

As the attacks grow, we have discovered who our friends and enemies are. Some teachers just can't tear themselves from the administration. They are only interested in their advancement. They don't care about the students, and are willing to tattle on the teachers who are fighting for students. But most teachers do care, and some really get it. One friend was outraged when she was called to snitch on a fellow teacher, a communist. She declared that she would never cooperate with their witchhunt and that the communist teacher was a beacon of hope for the students. This teacher reads CHALLENGE diligently and distributes it to friends and family. She has many questions about our struggle for communism amidst our reform battles, but she has a vision very similar to ours.

So, how are we doing? Certainly being attacked is a sign that we are making a difference. Our base has defended us against these attacks and is growing, but there is much more to do. Specifically, we must be prepared to keep fighting and organizing under increasingly oppressive conditions. Mayor Bloomberg and schools chancellor Klein have more budget cuts and repression in store for schools. The ruling class is preparing for more wars and needs more "reforms" to prepare for them. We have to fight back. Let's increase our CHALLENGE networks. Let's get involved in the Anti-Budget-Cut Conference on Thursday, December 10th with lots of parents, teachers and students. Let's fight against these cuts as we train our leaders and build our movement for a communist future. ☸

Queens Students Demand: U.S. Out of Afghanistan!

NEW YORK CITY, December 2 — Sixteen hours after President Obama announced he was sending 30,000 more soldiers to the killing fields of Afghanistan, and called on everyone to stand united behind this latest imperialist surge, anti-war students at Queens College denounced the war and called for complete withdrawal. Twenty students and faculty rallied in the middle of the main quad, chanted against the war and distributed copies of a flyer entitled Fourteen Reasons Why We Should Demand an End to the U.S. Occupation of Afghanistan. Then students marched around campus and into the student cafeteria with a coffin representing those who have died for control of Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea oil in Iraq and Afghanistan. The protest received a few jeers from pro-war students but far more cheers from those who agree with us.

The protest was organized by members of the faculty-student antiwar committee of the Professional Staff Congress (the faculty and staff union) and of STAND, a new activist student organization that formed out of anti-racist concern over the deaths of millions in Africa.

This semester STAND held a forum that featured a speaker from Congo, who kept 30 students and faculty spellbound as he described how Western corporate hunger for his country's mineral riches had fueled wars that killed more than five million Congolese.

STAND also held a forum on the right-wing coup in Honduras that murdered dozens of people on behalf of a ruling oligarchy that won't tolerate the slightest intrusion on its "right" to pay a few cents an hour to those who toil in the factories and fields.

We also screened Rethink Afghanistan, a liberal film that does a good job of dismantling the myths about why U.S. troops are in Afghanistan, but a poor job in explaining the real reasons for the occupation. Each of these events attracted about 30 or more students and faculty.

PLP members are working together with the members of STAND and others who are battling against war and injustice. At these events we distributed CHALLENGE and explained how all the things we abhor — from sweatshops to mass killings in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Africa — are the products of capitalism, and we invite our friends to join us in building a communist movement to overthrow that system. ☸

Expose Racist Police Violence as Normal for Capitalism

NEW YORK CITY, November 30 — Antiwar, anti-budget-cuts students and faculty here organized a panel on police violence at the Pittsburgh G-20 Summit and the “criminalization of dissent.” The panel discussed police brutality during the G20 Summit, the erosion of civil liberties in the U.S., and recent attempts to “criminalize” dissent through laws like the Anti-Riot Act, including the arrest of two anarchists for using Twitter to inform other activists of police activity. This disregard for “democratic liberties” is more evidence that fascist violence and repression is sharply increasing.

The panel began with a disturbing clip of a “snatch-and-grab” kidnapping of a young protestor by the National Guard, working alongside local police in Pittsburgh: they simply grabbed the youth, bundled him into a civilian car, and drove away. The clips also showed how U.S. police have started using the painful Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) developed for “crowd control” in Iraq. A professor discussed grassroots movements and political change, noting how students and workers, not politicians, are the driving force in radical change.

The panel was well-attended by students troubled by growing police brutality, but ignored two key aspects of police violence stressed by communists in PLP. First, police brutality is not an “excess” or an exception, but the normal police role under capitalism to use force to protect private property and to control workers who organize against exploitation. We should expect police violence to increase in the current era of deep capitalist crisis and expanding imperialist war.

Second, police brutality (as shown by

the murders of Sean Bell and other black and Latino youths) is a sharp everyday expression of capitalist racism. Our Party has consistently been in the forefront of fighting back against these racist police attacks in our neighborhoods and reporting these struggles in CHALLENGE.

The weak, disorganized anarchist protests against the G20 imperialists meeting in Pittsburgh described by the panel do not serve the needs of students and workers.

We need the solid base the Party builds by connecting our everyday struggles to the need for communist revolution. On our campus we need to show more of our friends how budget cuts are linked to Obama’s imperialist wars and the global capitalist crisis which forces U.S. bosses both to discipline U.S. workers and increase their rate of exploitation.

The ruling class needs to control students and workers who attempt to organize, as the united students, faculty and workers at the University of California are now doing, including resistance to police attacks. Our campus is sending a letter of solidarity to the UC protestors, as we organize against similar cuts in New York. The commitment of our friends can make these reform struggles unite and grow, but only commitment to PLP’s revolutionary organizing can pave the way for a decisive struggle against the system itself. We have to demonstrate the necessity of struggling for a world without bosses and profits, and therefore without the racist brutality by capitalist police and the racist mass slaughter by imperialist armies. ☸

Homeland Security Fascist Aim: Bust Airport Union

Airport workers were shocked but not surprised when company bosses initiated a new fascist campaign to prevent workers from collectively organizing. The company bosses told the Airport Police to arrest the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) officials visiting the airport! The police cited “Homeland Security” and told the union officials they “would be arrested for trespassing on airport property” if they did not leave. They left, but a few days later they were able to gain access to the airport and the union members through their lawyer.

The airport cleaners, along with 80% of the metro area cleaners, are SEIU members. Our contract ends December 31st. The airport cleaners would be crucial in the event contract negotiations break down and a strike happens.

If the airport janitors go on strike they could win a new contract for all the metro area cleaners. It takes three weeks for people to pass the security checks. The airport bosses would not be able to get scabs (replacements) right away. Meanwhile, the garbage piles up and the company bosses are under pressure to reach a settlement! This is why the company bosses had their servants, the Airport Police, harass the union officials. Some of our union members come from El Salvador or Africa and have seen far worse done to workers!

The union steward has been having many political discussions with fellow workers about how the cops’ real job is to enforce the bosses’ rules and protect their private property. We discussed the necessity of communist revolution vs. capitalist reforms. Until millions and billions of workers globally overthrow racist sexist capitalism, any reform we win can be taken from us. The bosses have state power so they can call the shots against us.

Also, recently there was a series of immigration raids in our metro area involving workers from Mexico and Central America. This has to be addressed to: 1- show our solidarity with our Latino brothers and sisters, and 2- not let our company bosses use this as a racist wedge to divide us so we can’t fight back. Airport workers need multiracial unity, internationalism, and communist revolution to defeat our racist and fascist oppressors. ☸

World AIDS Day: Profits Drive AIDS Epidemic

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 1 — Capitalism is a racist, murderous system, from unchecked epidemics to imperialist wars to worldwide poverty. This analysis and the need for militant anti-racism and communist revolution were brought to this year’s World AIDS Day protest at the White House by PLP’ers. PLP mobilized a dozen students, outreach workers and friends to go, distributing over 30 CHALLENGES and a leaflet emphasizing the struggle against the war in Afghanistan.

PL’ers have struggled with other activists over several years to see that the AIDS crisis is caused by the racist system of capitalism, not just the policies of particular politicians. Militant action against the whole system is needed to advance the struggle against AIDS. This influence showed up in the theme of the demonstration — System Failure; Shock the System!

After the White House protest, the crowd marched to Mayor Adrian Fenty’s office to demand he house the 600 mainly black homeless people living with AIDS who are on a waiting list for publicly supported housing. Homeless people living with AIDS are unable to seriously treat their disease, which requires frequent, careful compliance with taking medication. Fenty, content to let them die, has let the number of such sufferers double in the last three years as he has restricted access to housing.

Spirited chants of “What do we do when people with AIDS are under attack: FIGHT BACK!” and “Money for AIDS – NOT for WAR” rang out through the streets. A bold group of activists (including a PL’er) entered Fenty’s office demanding to meet the mayor. Cops arrested two demonstrators who sat-in in front of his office. Over a dozen protestors chanted for hours outside the office.

The struggle against AIDS in D.C. is growing and involving more workers and students, many of whom are becoming familiar with CHALLENGE and revolutionary strategy. More D.C. residents living with HIV have taken public roles collecting petition signatures for needle exchange, sex education, and housing in the neighborhoods where the epidemic is strong. Public health students and young professionals have organized outreach, testimony, media, and coalition-building efforts to secure housing for those on the waiting list.

System Failure perfectly captures the reasons for the persistence of the HIV epidemic in D.C. and around the world. While HIV causes AIDS, capitalism’s quest for profits at the expense of our health drives this epidemic. Poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, incarceration, and drug use — all products of capitalism and its inhumane vicious culture — force many people into sexual and drug-using behaviors that expose them to HIV.

Meanwhile, Congress continues to fight against

funding needle-exchange programs, which are proven to reduce HIV infections among injecting drug-users, and continues to fund absurd abstinence-only programs that do not reduce HIV.

Obama pledges billions of dollars for an expanded war in Afghanistan yet ignores his campaign promise to fund the global AIDS treatment program PEPFAR to provide enough AIDS medications for countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Obama’s administration is no different from Bush’s. Both serve the corporate elite and destroy workers’ lives at the commands of the barons of Wall Street. Health centers now have people dying of AIDS on waiting lists for these lifesaving drugs because the ruling class wants to build oil pipelines in Afghanistan!

In D.C., the Fenty Administration slashes homeless and domestic-violence shelters and ignores its HIV epidemic, the highest in the nation. Yet, it provides millions of public dollars to developers to build condos, hotels, and stadiums.

This is not a system that can be resuscitated! It must be replaced with communism, a system where health care is provided to all based on need. An alliance among students, workers, and public health activists must join PLP to smash capitalism with communist revolution. ☸

Anti-Racist Strike Solidarity Needed vs. French Rulers

Undocumented Workers Deal Bosses Blow for Blow

PARIS, December 4 — The two-month strike of 5,500 undocumented workers fighting for immigrants' rights has been a shining light in a depressed French labor movement. Consequently, the bosses and their government have concentrated their attacks on these workers, but the latter have been returning blow for blow.

In their latest action, on December 2, 80 undocumented restaurant workers occupied the tax collection office in Nice on the French Riviera to underline the fact that these workers — many of African origin — pay taxes. Later the police cleared the workers from the building.

That morning, 150 undocumented workers — dishwashers, kitchen assistants, chambermaids and office workers at some of the swankiest hotels and restaurants on the French Riviera — rallied, demanding "legalization." Of 450 such requests over the past 18 months the Nice prefect has barely granted 40.

Four days earlier, 10,000 people, mostly striking undocumented workers, marched through Paris to the Immigration Ministry chanting, "We're staying here, we live here! 'Legalization' of all undocumented immigrants!" This was in response to an immigration minister circular limiting conditions for "legalization" to less than one in five of the striking workers, and then only on a case-by-case basis.

The five trade union confederations and six associations that are organizing and supporting the undocumented workers associations rejected this as "unacceptable." They particularly attacked

the minister's five-year residence requirement, the exclusion of Algerians and Tunisians, and of those who work as personal-care providers, many of whom are women.

A strikers' spokesman declared: "We've come here to condemn this half-assed circular, which in no way responds to our demands. Our movement will continue stronger than ever. Already, 5,500 of us are on strike, manning 60 picket lines. We're more determined than ever, and nothing will cause us to lower the intensity [of our struggle]. We also want to condemn the attacks on the right to strike, with the boss just needing to make a simple phone call to have a picket line lifted, without any court decision."

The 11 organizations also denounced the labor minister's new measures to punish the employers of workers in the "underground economy." This was a ploy to play on the racist stereotype promoted by the French fascists, who say immigrant workers are "bankrupting the social security system." Quite the contrary, undocumented workers make social security payments but cannot use social services.

Racism — The Bosses' Tool

In a new version of "blame the victim," on November 28 French president Nicolas Sarkozy told his UMP party that the undocumented workers' demand for "legalization" was stirring up anti-foreigner feelings and breathing new life into the fascist National Front party!

Racism remains a weakness in the French labor movement. According to a public opinion poll

published on November 30, 78% of the population recognizes that entire industries could not function without immigrant workers. Nevertheless, only 24% favor across-the-board "legalization," while 64% back the government's racist policy of "case-by-case 'legalization.'"

However, some sentiment is represented by a 33-year-old youth worker, Karima, who told an interviewer: "I feel ashamed of the way undocumented workers are treated in France.... This government is continually stigmatizing not just immigrants, but also the poor and minorities. It's the same thing with the debate on national identity; they're trying to pit people against one another. Unfortunately, some French people fall into the trap."

And a 22-year-old student, Antonin, who joined the march through Paris, said: "I support the undocumented workers.... It's about time their demands were met. These workers have been living in France for years and are obliged to live in hiding and are subject to all the pressures of the employers."

The only road for the working class to answer capitalism's attacks is to unite all these movements — undocumented workers, the unemployed, rail and auto workers, teamsters, teachers in France with the workers in Guadeloupe and Mayotte (see articles this page) — into an anti-racist groundswell. This has the potential to turn these fight-backs into schools for communism, leading to the only solution: destroy capitalism with communist revolution. ☛

Guadeloupe: Black Workers Lead Actions

POINTE-A-PITRE, GUADELOUPE, November 25 — Over 25,000 marched today as part of a two-day general strike demanding that the French government respect the Bino accord, which ended last Spring's 44-day general strike (see CHALLENGE, 3/11/09).

Thousands of police had arrived here in the weeks preceding the general strike. The bosses were hoping to provoke riots to use as an excuse to arrest the strike organizers in the Alliance Against Profiteering (LKP) and dismantle their organization.

The LKP has called on the population to be ready to strike and protest in the streets at the first sign of a \$1.32-per-gallon gasoline price hike. It also underlined the key role played by women in organizing the general strikes and called for an end to domestic violence against women.

The action of these mainly black workers in Guadeloupe in mounting a two-day general strike is setting an example for workers in continental France to also join together in anti-racist unity against the same ruling class that is exploiting them all. ☛

Jobless March; Lack of Unity Weakens Strikes

PARIS, December 4 — On December 8, rail workers will begin a series of 24-hour strikes crossing several industries: train drivers and ticket collectors (December 12) protesting management restructuring plans; and teamsters (December 13) for higher wages — demanding a \$10 euro (US\$15)-an-hour minimum — disrupting holiday merchandise deliveries to stores.

Jobless Actions

Four unemployed workers' organizations are calling for jobless marches in Paris and other big cities on December 5. Although the "official" unemployment rate is 9.1% it jumps to 23% when including part-timers who can't get full-time jobs and workers who've given up looking for non-existent jobs.

But a major weakness of workers' strikes is the fact that they've been conducted independently, with no effort to link up with each other or with the on-going undocumented immigrant workers' strikes and sit-downs. The November 24 teachers' strikes against 16,000 planned job cuts brought out only several thousand protestors nation-wide, although called by three teacher unions and supported by high school and university student organizations.

Similarly, the postal-worker strike against creeping privatization called by five unions initially scheduled as a two-day strike, was only prolonged by a day of protests on November 28. And in the banking sector, less than half the Société Générale workers struck while the HSBC walkout only lasted for an hour or two.

The low level of fighting spirit in the public sector does not bode well for private-sector

action. Civil service laws seemingly give public workers relative "protection" from the bosses' retaliation. In France they're seen as "striking for the whole working class." Private-sector workers' strikes are riskier.

Sensing weakness, the auto bosses at Peugeot's Sochaux factory have mercilessly sped up the assembly line. After months of layoffs, overtime — substituting for 100 full-time jobs in November — is the order of the day. "In the past few weeks, there have been seven cases of burn-out, of physical and mental exhaustion, which have been classed as on-the-job accidents," said one union official. Nevertheless, Peugeot refuses to make permanent any of the over 1,500 temporary workers at the factory.

Spineless Hacks

The weakness of the strikes is the result of — and has further encouraged — the spinelessness of the union hacks. At the November 24-26 congress of the UNSA union (backed by 6.2% of the workers), its general secretary congratulated himself that "no major labor organization identifies with revolutionary trade unionism." He advocated the convergence of the reformist confederations. The leader of the CFDT union (backed by 21.8% of the workers) quickly embraced the idea. Should that happen, it would only reinforce the power of the sellouts over the workers.

Clearly, these misleaders will not provide the revolutionary anti-racist unity needed by workers here. The working class in France will have to develop communist leadership to overcome racism and get off the treadmill of reformism. ☛

CORRECTION

In the December 9 issue, we reported that Guadeloupe's workers would pay for the oil company's "losses" due to a gas price freeze with "a 22 euro-cents per gallon (33US¢) price hike." It should have read 22 euro-cents per LITER price hike, which works out to a per gallon increase of approximately US\$1.32.

LETTERS



Red GIs Vital to Revolution

I just returned from an overseas deployment. A recent conversation made me think about our efforts in organizing for the Party in the military. Mary is a local schoolteacher I met in the park and we talked about the injustices we see and agreed teachers need to join together to organize against the corrupt school system.

She was disappointed that I would be part of this terrible and unjust "war on terrorism." She disapproved of soldiers and war in general and felt that soldiers are entirely detached from their class. Unfortunately, many people think this way. I told Mary that all soldiers don't agree with what's going on in the world. In fact, many of my military friends know that this "war on terror" is really no such thing but rather a war between imperialist rivals. Three of my good friends read CHALLENGE, and they have a higher understanding about the world around us. I decided not to tell Mary about my being in PLP yet, but we'll keep seeing each other.

Why does a worker think soldiers are so different? The military forces here and around the world are composed of working-class soldiers. We need to close this gap and think about building a bridge between soldiers, workers and students. Since there aren't any jobs out there, more people are joining the military.

This means that we have to recruit soldiers to our communist ideas, just like communist teachers recruit students to the Party, some of whom could be headed to the military. We have strong potential to grow in the military, and we must strengthen this effort. Soldiers are indispensable to revolution, especially during expanding imperialist war like today.

As a worker, soldier, former student, future teacher and life-long communist, I stress the need to build our Party in the military. The gap needs to be closed, and we must place our communist politics in the forefront in order to win the battles ahead.

Always a Red Soldier

What You Do Counts

Every morning, the workers from the inspection department walk to the bus area to collect our assigned work for mechanical inspection. One day, the "lead man" (worker in charge of the group) took the day off. A worker found that his bus had a card saying "don't touch," so he returned to his supervisor and told him that he would act as "lead man." But the supervisor said, "We're going to assign you another bus because you don't have the highest seniority."

The worker with the highest seniority accepted being "lead man." The problem started when the supervisor wanted to give him a bus to repair. This worker tried to explain to the supervisor that the work of the "lead man" is to help and assist the rest of the workers. But under the supervisor's pressure, he accepted repairing the bus.

A CHALLENGE reader started to talk to the other workers and tell them that they should oppose this arbitrary action by the supervisor. The discussion led to forming a multi-racial group of men and women who agreed to do something. Then the supervisor came, at first very upset, saying that what he was doing was part of the rules. But the workers answered that this wasn't true, that he was taking advantage.

Very offended, the supervisor said, "You owe me many favors." A worker answered, "You do us favors because we do more favors for you." The workers made it clear that if they acquiesced, including doing it as a favor, in the future this could become a custom, and they were not willing to give in. At this moment, other workers had come around, including the union representative, and they concluded that we were right. A fellow worker said, "United is the only way to win."

During lunch, I talked to the CHALLENGE

reader who initiated the action and told him that he needed to be in our Party (PLP) and continue reading and distributing the paper because he had the capacity to be a leader. He asked me if I would write something for CHALLENGE and I said yes. So he said, "Tell them that this rooster doesn't give up."

Comrade from L.A.

Racist Nazi Monsters Didn't Run

The letter in the last issue (12/09) titled "Were Soviet and Nazi Armies' Commitment Similar?" downplays how difficult the Nazis were to defeat and in doing so undercuts the achievement of the Red Army. The young punks referred to in the letter bear little resemblance to the Nazi war machine that the Red Army had to defeat room-by-room, house-by-house and street-by-street in Stalingrad.

"The Germans, calling this unseen urban warfare Rattenkrieg ('Rat War'), bitterly joked about capturing the kitchen but still fighting for the living room. In such desperate chaos, all battle lines vanished, and the major, armor-supported mobility to which the German soldiers were accustomed degenerated into vicious, fast-paced skirmishes ranging through bombed-out debris of residential neighborhoods, office blocks, basements, and apartment high-rises. Some of the taller buildings, blasted into roofless shells by earlier German aerial bombardment, saw floor-by-floor, close-quarters combat, with the Germans on one level, Soviets on the next, Germans on the next, etc., firing at each other through holes in the floors"

"The (Soviet) 13th Guards Rifle Division, assigned to retake Mamayev Kurgan and Railway Station No. 1 on 13 September suffered particularly heavy losses. Over 30 percent of its soldiers were killed in the first 24 hours, and just 320 out of the original 10,000 survived the entire battle. Both objectives were retaken, but only temporarily. The railway station changed hands 14 times in six hours. By the following evening, the 13th Guards Rifle Division had ceased to exist, but its men had killed approximately an equal number of Germans." (wikipedia.com)

The Nazis were racist monsters, but they didn't run. They fought very hard and were very willing to die for their racist beliefs.

History Buff

Honduras: Need to Fight ALL Bosses

In the Santa Cruz Memorial cemetery, the union leader Jairo Sanchez was buried alongside many other working-class martyrs of the Honduran struggle, after he was shot by the police on Sept. 23 and died on October 17. The same day he was buried, another popular leader was killed in Macuelizo, in the Department of Santa Barbara. "Eliseo Hernandez Juarez, a teacher, member of the Resistance, was killed a few hours ago," confirmed Juan Barahona, leader of the Resistance against the coup. These workers are the latest ones to have been killed by Michelletti's June 28 military coup.

The Panamanian Highway is full of cars, buses and vans that have brought several thousand members of the Resistance, friends, co-workers and fellow union members of Jairo. The struggle against the coup has taken a high toll in human lives, but the Honduran masses haven't retreated, or, as they say in the marches, when they camp out in the streets, or in their actions, "They're afraid of us because we're not afraid

of them."

Sadly, two more comrades have left us. The best way to honor their deaths is to fight against the capitalist system that hides in the bosses' elections and military coups, where they decide which boss will govern and exploit the workers.

At this moment, we are burying a comrade. From different parts of Honduras we get the news that the people are beginning "our own plan of action." There is sentiment that we can no longer "sacrifice people for nothing." We have no hope in the talks between the different bosses, because we don't see in the bosses who defend Michelletti or Zelaya any political desire to benefit the working class.

As long as the capitalist dictatorship continues, whether Liberal or Nationalist, the repression and deaths will continue. We workers must fight for our class brothers and sisters, not to reinstitute the President. The resistance maintains that it will continue the struggle in the streets passively. But there's much indignation and we know what can happen in the future when the masses organize behind revolutionary politics to fight for power to the working class, communism.

We, as members of PLP, have made contacts with members of the Resistance and we will continue struggling to win them to see that the only way out of this spilling of workers' blood is to end all relations with the bosses. "But there will be other decisions outside the Resistance that we can't control," stated a leader of this group. This opens the door to the hope that the working class in Honduras can convert this fight into one to destroy the capitalist oppressor. Read CHALLENGE and learn, comrades from Honduras and all over the world, that the struggle is hard but that we are advancing the fight for communism.

Salvadoran Comrade

Mayotte Island: Starving Youth Fight Cops

MAYOTTE, INDIAN OCEAN, December 3 — Violent demonstrations protested the high cost of living all day yesterday on this island in the Indian Ocean off the East coast of Africa, a French overseas territory, population 200,000. Roadblocks were erected. Groups of young people attacked the police all day. Two demonstrators and one cop were seriously injured. Police reinforcements were being flown in from Réunion island.

"We're worried about our kids," shouted one mother. "They're starving to death!" Saide Omar Oili, a former president of the general council, said there was "a real insurrectionary atmosphere" on the island. (Mayotte is scheduled to be incorporated as a French département in 2011.)

The violence erupted after a demonstration called by the Collective of Lost Residents. One member, Jean-Paul Musquin, said "The people barely have the means to subsist, with minimal wages; they barely can buy food to eat, and should not have to pay for the elected officials' mistakes."

The general council has run up a 90-million-euro debt (US\$135 million). It was planning to raise ferry ticket prices to make the workers pay. The increase has now been stricken from the general council's agenda.

These workers in Mayotte are still another group to unite with those fighting in Guadeloupe and among workers in France, especially the 5,500 striking undocumented immigrant workers — struggles which red leadership could turn into schools for communism. ☺

Colombia: University Students Fight Rulers' Fascist Repression

There is currently a campaign of control and death affecting public universities in Colombia, characterized by assassinations, massive detentions and intimidation. Paramilitary forces, at the service of private property and the state, threaten students and the whole working class. Individual students and faculty, singled out by name, have received threatening flyers that claim their organizations, groups and meeting places as military targets.

And U.S. rulers supply Colombia's fascist government — its client state — with billions in weapons and military "advisors" to perpetuate these attacks.

These threats are taking place, as in the past, in the context of massive protests against privatization to intimidate students, parents and teachers and discourage their involvement.

The racist persecution of students and faculty is not limited to threats, but also criminalizing and stigmatizing the opposition, as was the case of professors William Javier Diaz and Guillermo Beltrán. Scores of students have been falsely accused of participating in armed insurgency and have been arrested or have disappeared in government dungeons. This campaign of repression has also included violent police or paramilitary raids at the university, and genocidal propaganda carried out by politicians, the mass

media and the criminal government of Colombian President Uribe Velez. We blame the bourgeoisie, the state and their henchmen for the crimes committed against workers, faculty and youth in general, and we are organizing further protests to denounce this repression. We struggle to improve our lives and become agents in the revolutionary transformation that humanity needs.

Homicides and disappearances are common in several regions of the capital, Bogotá (Tunjuelito, Usme, Rafael, Uribe, San Cristóbal, Suba, Usaquén) under the complacent eyes of local and national authorities.

During the last few months, curfew in those regions has resulted in the murder of those who "disobeyed" it. In some cases flyers distributed in the neighborhoods have named individual assassination targets, while in other cases the threat was widespread and affected whole working-class communities. More than 300 young people have been murdered in the neighborhoods of Bosa, Ciudad Bolívar, Patio Bonito and Martínez. These threats and assassinations are only the beginning of a plan of control and displacement that is being implemented in the rural areas and all the cities of the country.

The nature of the murders also indicates similar level of coordination, which suggests state

involvement, because of the high technical, logistical and financial resources required. This is the reality that the majority of young people face in capitalist countries. Racist policies aim to control the working class and — in the hands of state-sponsored death squads, persecution and extermination — to discourage street resistance to government policies that only bring unemployment and misery to our class. The system of wage slavery is responsible for the tragic condition of our class, and for this reason the proletariat cannot find solutions to their problems except in daily and organized struggle against this capitalist dictatorship.

Group confrontations and resistance are good steps, but individual resistance is very limited and allows our class enemies, the capitalist bosses, to isolate us and defeat us separately. Workers of the world unite! The international working class needs and is building its revolutionary party, PLP, which can channel all our efforts to destroy capitalism and begin forging a new egalitarian, communist society. We invite all proletarians to join our efforts to struggle and build a communist revolution. ☸

RED EYE ON THE NEWS

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Dirty wars come with good story

GW, 11/13 — To the editor: ... The US is just as full of the arrogance of empire as Great Britain used to be. The only difference is that the US has always... covered up imperialist adventures under a cloak of "liberalism" to make Americans more comfortable in pursuing empire. This cloak... start[ed] with the US war against the Filipino independence insurgency after the defeat of Spain. President... McKinley justified the war... by saying that it was a duty of the American people to "Christianise" the Filipinos. The Vietnam war was justified as saving the Vietnamese people from communism.

The war against Nicaragua again was said to be justified to save the Nicaraguan people from communism. The Iraq war was justified by saying that the war was being fought to bring "democracy" to the poor benighted Iraqi people, and... the Afghan war is now being justified for the same reason.

All these wars were and are imperialist wars.

Pennies from heaven for India?

GW, 11/27 — [To the editor:]The good news is that India has a vibrant space programme (13 November). The bad news is that India has 214 million hungry people and half its children suffer from malnutrition. Perhaps the children will be eventually fed on pie in the sky.

Can't buy food, so can't obey doc

GW, 11/27 — HIV-positive patients in eastern Uganda are abandoning their antiretroviral treatment "in droves" because of a lack of food. The drugs must be taken with food, otherwise there can be side effects, such as dizziness and vomiting....

Unless more food becomes available there would be "drug resistance and death...."

Babies... can be infected by their mother's milk. "When my daughter Julia was born she was HIV-negative, but a year and a half later she was sick like me," says Hilda Simmon, [in Namibia]. She breastfed her baby for a year. This is too long, according to the specialists, who recommend stopping after

four to six months. "In rich countries it's not a problem because there are alternative foodstuffs but here the poverty rules out such luxuries."

Presidents sell wars with lies

NYT, 12/2 — As a candidate, Mr. Bush delivered his first foreign policy address in 1999... There, he vowed to put an end to Clinton-era foreign interventions....

All presidents say that... war will not drag on forever; they just find their own way of saying it. Mr. Obama said the country's [Afghanistan] troop commitment would not be open-ended "because the nation that I am most interested in building is our own."

President Johnson promised in his speech about the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964: "Our response, for the present, will be limited and fitting. We Americans know, although others appear to forget, the risks of spreading conflict. We still seek no wider war."

Jobless grads face racist hiring

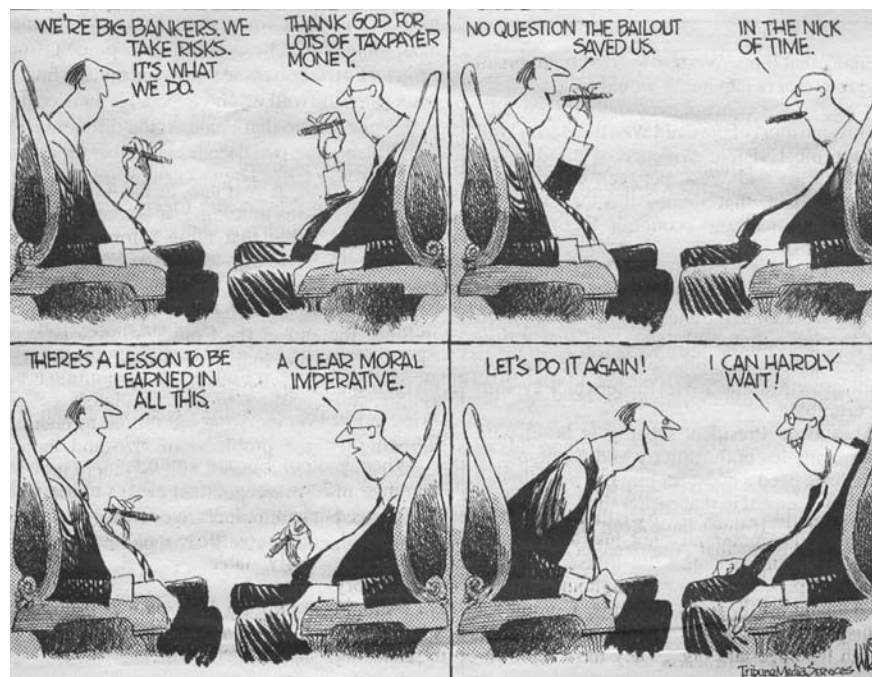
NYT, 12/1 — There is ample evidence that racial inequities remain when it comes to unemployment. Black joblessness has long far outstripped that of whites. And strikingly, the disparity for the first 10 months of this year, as the recession has dragged on, has been even more pronounced for those with college degrees, compared with those without. Education, it seems, does not level the playing field — in fact, it appears to have made it more uneven....

The unemployment rate for black male college graduates 25 and older in 2009 has been nearly twice that of white male college graduates....

A study... titled "Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal?" found that applicants with black-sounding names received 50 percent fewer callbacks than those with white-sounding names.

No media on these Ft. Hood deaths

NYT, 11/7 — We cannot continue sending service members into combat for three tours, four tours, five tours and more without paying a horren-



dous price in terms of the psychological well-being of the troops and their families....

Post-traumatic stress disorder... caseloads are off the charts, and very often the P.T.S.D. or depression (or both) are accompanied by substance abuse, problems with anger management, domestic violence and family breakdown.

These are not weak men and women we are talking about. This... takes on people... who are young, physically fit and mentally sound....

We're getting saturation media coverage of [an] outburst of horror at Fort Hood, but we haven't heard a lot about the scores of suicides at that same base — the highest of any U.S. military installation — since the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

LA vet: 'Cuba has no homeless'

GW, 11/20 — Rolnik had... to tour US cities to prepare a report for the UN....

Her final stop was Los Angeles, homeless capital of the nation. Up to 100,000 people are sleeping on the streets or in shelters on any given night. Some have been living like that for years....

Rolnik held a town hall meeting in every city she had visited. At the LA meeting, a Spanish-speaking... war veteran steps up. He is the angriest of the lot. He is not a communist, he says, but in Cuba nobody goes homeless. He fought for America and now he is left to live on the streets.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE:
www.plp.org

Bosses Use 'Human Rights' As Cover for Their Mass Murder

The U.S. rulers claim to be champions of "human rights" and throw around charges against China and other countries which they say are violating "human rights." This is a sick joke. The "human rights" movement was created by the ruling class to divert workers' anger away from blaming the bosses for the atrocities of capitalism.

Eleanor Roosevelt and other prominent U.S. ruling-class figures initiated the modern "human rights" movement in the form of a U.N. resolution in 1949. It was part of the U.S. rulers' attempts to build all-class unity — when the ruling class tries to convince workers that they have the same interest — out of fear of the growing world communist movement. The movement was based on the lie that there are "human rights" that are not based on class struggle, and people who wanted to fight for a decent life for all people didn't have to join the communist movement to do that.

Today the bosses use the "human rights" movements to mobilize people to fight other capitalists. Whoever is the main competitor of the U.S. these days, China, Russia, Iran and a few others, are endlessly charged with "human rights" violations. While friends of the U.S. rulers, like Saudi Arabia, get a free pass.

Now after sixty years we can see where following the capitalists "human rights" movement has been selective. They plan demonstrations and mass outcry about atrocities in Darfur, where China has oil interests, while ignoring imperialist wars in Iraq and Afghanistan where U.S. interests lie.

A glance at "life in these United States" shows any tears the U.S. rulers' shed over the condition of the working class to be a farce:

- Racist attacks against and murders of black, Latino, Arab and south Asian workers are increasing. They are openly encouraged by "conservative" radio and TV;
- Workers have few rights to organize unions. When they do, the unions are bought off by the bosses, and end up representing the unions' and bosses' interests, not "their" members;
- Forty percent of the population, and the majority of the working class, have little or no health care;
- Unemployment is over 20% (when underem-

ployed, the military "economic draft" and those no longer looking for work are counted). Loss of a job is a threat hanging over every worker's head;

- Essential public services — such as public schools, recreation, unemployment insurance, retirement pensions, and the ability to go to college — all are being dismantled. These cuts amount to a huge DECREASE in the real wages of all workers;
- U.S. jails and prisons hold more than two million, 25% of all the prisoners in the world. Most of them were convicted of non-violent "crimes," for possession of tiny amounts of drugs and are in jail because they're black or Latino. (In Western Europe such people are directed to rehab programs.) The difference between jail or no jail often rests with the racist views of the cops and judges, and the ability to pay for a high-priced defense lawyer. Prisoners work for pennies a day, producing goods that, through competition, lower the wages of all other workers and make billions for bosses off this cheap labor;
- Immigrants from Latin America, South Asia, and the Mid-East are being swept up and indefinitely locked away in a growing network of immigration prisons.

Internationally the U.S. is the most murderous, aggressive power in the post-Hitler period:

- Over 2.5 million Koreans killed during the Korean War, 1950-1953, most of them by U.S. carpet bombing of North Korea;
- Between 3 to 4 million Vietnamese killed by the U.S. and allies during the Vietnam War, 1961-1975;
- A million or more civilians killed by U.S.-funded death squads, military and police to make Latin America "safe for democracy," 1950-1990;
- One million Iraqis dead because of the U.S. blockade and sanctions, 1991-2003, including medical supplies and water-purification equipment;
- Over 1.5 million Iraqis killed as a result of the U.S. invasion and "war on terror," against civilians, 2003-2009; four million more have been displaced and are refugees.
- More than 30,000 Afghan civilians killed (the racist U.S. media do not report these figures);
- The U.S. "renders" — kidnaps for secret torture — hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people and uses "drone" missiles to kill anybody it suspects of being hostile.

These figures do not include millions killed by U.S.-backed and -funded allies, such as the over one million Indonesians killed by the fascist regime in the 1960s to 1970s.

An even bigger holocaust is the millions — mostly children — who die of completely preventable hunger and disease throughout the world every year, preventable because the world produces enough food and medicine to stop this slaughter. But since half the world's six billion people live in brutal poverty, they can't pay for what they need, and these children die.

From U.S. to China, Capitalism is the Enemy

Today the U.S. government is attacking the Chinese capitalists for what they call "violations of human rights." Chinese bosses certainly are guilty of exploiting workers. Socialism has long been overthrown in China and replaced by a very brutal form of state capitalism. Behind this "holier-than-thou" performance are the growing economic and political contradictions between the U.S. and Chinese ruling classes.

Workers in China have few rights. Workers' and farmers' protests are severely repressed by the Chinese state. Right-wing, nationalist misleaders try to direct non-Han workers' and farmers' anger against Han workers, instead of uniting with them.

Farmers are driven off their land with little compensation to make way for industrial projects that make billions for capitalists while polluting the earth, air, and water. Education and medical care are only for those who can pay, which means most workers get far too little of either.

Sound Familiar? Workers in the U.S. Face Similar Conditions!

U.S. bosses claim that the U.S. is "democratic" while China is not. Western capitalists long ago figured out that permitting workers to "vote" is helpful in disguising the fact that the country is really a dictatorship. It is a dictatorship because the capitalists run the country in their own class interest. Workers can vote because the capitalists control everything — all the political parties, plus the mass media, plus the money needed to carry on elections.

A communist society, run by the workers, would be based on production for need rather than production for profits. Only communism can possibly provide these basic needs for the working people of the world. Only under communism will every person be a worker, contributing towards the common good. ☸

Did You Know...

On December 30, 1936, 1,200 GM workers barricaded themselves inside the company's Fisher Body #1 plant in Flint, Michigan, where they stayed for 44 days and nights. They were led by a strike committee containing six communists, and were supported by millions of workers nation-wide, forcing GM to recognize the UAW and winning a 40-hour week. This led to 4,000,000 workers, mostly in basic industries, being organized into the CIO in the following four years.

On December 8, 1962, the longest newspaper strike in NY history began as 17,000 workers shut down all major papers and stayed out for four months, winning a large wage increase and a cut in hours.

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