



LEFT HOOK

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F.I.S.T.
FIGHT
IMPERIALISM
STAND
TOGETHER

Fight Imperialism – Stand Together (F.I.S.T.) is a national group of young activists committed to fighting racism, sexism, the oppression of lesbian, gay, bi and trans people, and the exploitation of the working class, all of which are the result of imperialism and capitalism. We believe that the only way to achieve true liberation for all peoples is through socialism. We demand an end to all occupations now. Full rights for immigrants and all workers! End racist police terror! Freedom for all political prisoners! Money for health care, jobs and education, not endless war!

<http://FISTyouth.org>

No end in sight— Youth unemployment hits record high

By Scott Williams
Raleigh FIST

According to the Aug. 11 “Global Employment Trends for Youth 2010” report by the International Labor Organization, a U.N. agency, more than 82 million young people aged 16-25, or 13 percent of 620 million young workers across the world, are unemployed.

Even this record high number evades the reality of global mass unemployment, underemployment and poverty faced by young workers. They generally work in low-wage jobs with no benefits or job security and live in constant desperation and uncertainty. One-quarter of all employed youth – or 152 million – remain in extreme poverty, living in households making less than \$1.25 per day.

More than half of young people in the U.S., ages 16-24, do not have jobs. According to a study by the AFL-CIO, one in three young workers lives with their parents. About a third are uninsured and a third cannot pay their bills. Seven in 10 do not have enough money to cover two months of living expenses.

Youth from oppressed communities are being hit the hardest by the capitalist crisis. Black youth face unemployment rates above 50 percent. National Public Radio’s program “All Things Considered” reports that fewer than 14 in 100 young Black men have jobs. Latino/a youth face similarly high rates of unemployment.

Already given fewer chances to get a job, even with no benefits, youth from

oppressed communities, including immigrants, face higher unemployment and more competition for low-wage jobs. They have been impacted by the loss of millions of manufacturing jobs in the U.S. in the past decade, as well as the current recession. They are subjected to racist discrimination and are often the last hired and first fired if they are hired at all.

The current large pool of unemployed workers can be tapped to replace workers who attempt to organize against the economic inequality of capitalism.

The capitalist class and the state increasingly criminalize and imprison youth of color, instead of providing living-wage jobs and benefits.

While young people see fewer job opportunities, the U.S. military sees recruitment potential. Since the economic crisis began, military recruiters, who falsely

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Out of the Ballot Box, Into the Streets!

By Jennifer Waller
NY FIST

In this time of environmental, financial, and social crisis, many youth are becoming aware of the inequalities that exist in this country and around the globe, and are looking for ways to contribute to making the world a better place. In the mainstream, people are encouraged to get involved by working on local or national electoral political campaigns.

The most relevant and timely example of this trend is the surge of youth involvement during the Obama presidential campaign. Record numbers of youth participated in campaigning for Obama, and he received the highest share of the youth vote ever reported. Young people were mobilized and inspired by Obama’s message for hope and change; however, how are those young people feeling now? With the war in Afghanistan

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FIST contingent from opening march in U.S. Social Forum held in Detroit June 22-26.

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raging stronger than ever, and the youth unemployment rate recently hitting an all time high at 51.1% in July, young people are losing their hope for the change Obama promised to bring, and are looking for new ways to improve the lives of their families, their communities, and themselves. But will they just end up turning to another electoral candidate? Let's hope not. The problem is not Obama. The problem is not Bush, McCain, or Palin, for that matter, though they all contribute to the problem. The real problem is that the systems under which we function in this country are broken. Or maybe they are functioning the way they are meant to, but either way, they are not working in the favor of the people, and so we must work together outside the system in order to truly change it.

There are fundamental reasons for the crises we face at this time, and most of them can be traced back to the fact that this country is not run by the people—it is run by corporations and a very rich few. We do not have a true democracy—we are not even permitted to vote for initiatives that would hurt corporate profits, for such initiatives never even make it to the ballot. Look at what happened with healthcare: the people in this country overwhelmingly favored a single payer system, and that it was not instituted illustrates the pathetic state of our shredded democracy. While many may tout the result of Obama's healthcare reform as a major step forward, what has really changed? We are all still slaves to the insurance agencies that will happily take our families for all they are worth and let us die at home for lack of care.

Or take the current state of the environmental crisis as an example: at the Copenhagen summit, the United States and other rich countries undermined the wishes and demands of the entire third world (and the less profit-driven countries of the first world), ending up with an "agreement" that signed a death sentence on the majority of the world's population. Real health care reform and a commitment to combat the environmental crisis were not carried through for the same reason: our elected officials (including and especially our President) have their hands tied by corporations and the greedy people that run them; politicians are at the mercy of the ruling class elite.

Not only are the issues we face today unsolvable under this system; they were all created as a result of this system. The Earth is a casualty of capitalist production and the neo-colonial vision that all natural resources are up for grabs, for humans to use and exploit however we see fit. Elected politicians may address climate change and pollution, but very few will ever touch on the question of if we even have a right to treat the earth this way. The issue of immigration from the South is a hot topic in the United States these days, and all the elected officials have a stance on it. But none of them ever go so far as to discuss the root causes of mass migration from Mexico to the United States. If they did bother to include this in the dialogue, we would be hearing a lot more about how the United States stole the top third of Mexico and have been imposing strangling neoliberal economic policies on the people of that country ever since.

Many of the problems we face today were created through the process of electoral politics—however, most of them will only be solved through grassroots struggles and a militant peoples' movement.



Protest demanding jobs in Harlem, N.Y. on Aug. 6. Community leaders and activists began their action at North General Hospital — where workers, represented by Service Employees' Local 1199, were given only four days' notice that the entire hospital would be shut down.

For example, the unemployment crisis (a result of a recession caused by a gross lack of government regulation of corporate abuse) has reached a pitch so desperate that many despondent workers have given up all hope of ever finding a living wage job. The idea of a Works Progress Administration-style jobs program seems like a pie in the sky pipe dream to many—however it was instituted in the 1930's and a similar program could be created now. It is important to understand that the program was created by order of President Roosevelt and funded by Congress only after an intense peoples' struggle led by everyday workers demanding that the government provide some relief from the economic crisis.

Another example is the new racist Arizona immigration bill, SB 1070, which was signed into law and triumphed by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer after mass protests and a national boycott campaign, a federal judge blocked the most heinous portions of it. But the bill will only ever be abolished through struggle, under the pressure of a constant and unyielding peoples' movement to end Arizona's racist attack against Latin@s.

A similar issue is the debate that has taken place in the media and on the streets of downtown New York City over Park51, the proposed Islamic cultural center. Elected officials can talk until they are blue in the face about religious freedom and sensitivity to the families of victims of September 11th; however it is only an election issue to them, and more than anything they have helped to fuel the flames of bigotry and racism. Politicians care as little about what happens with Park51 as they do about ending racism

in this country. The only way the issue of Park51 can be settled is by people taking to the streets and expressing that racism and anti-Muslim bigotry will not be tolerated in New York City, or in any city in this country. Many youth feel strongly about the jobs crisis, as well as the rights of both Latin American immigrants and Muslim Americans. There is no avenue to express these feelings when working on electoral political campaigns—the only way to make real changes around these issues is by building the people's struggle against racism and economic inequality.

Elected officials address issues such as these in an attempt to connect to the people. To use the example of Obama again, he used the economic crisis and the hardship and pain it has caused people as a platform in his campaign through which he attempted to connect to families and communities. By articulating the struggles of U.S. families during his campaign, he won the hearts of many people, including countless student activists and community organizers. Many who had already given up on fighting for change through electoral politics had their hope rekindled by Obama, who has a background in community organizing. Many people dropped what they were doing to assist with Obama's campaign, going door knocking in swing states, or holding fundraisers at their houses. But by connecting to the people this way, the Obama campaign had the effect of distracting community organizers and student activists from the important work they do in order to help with the campaign of another imperialist President. At the end of the day, Obama was simply exploiting the pain of people affected by the economic crisis, as he is in no position to improve the situation—the economic crisis is merely another symptom of the disease of U.S. imperialism and corporate capitalism. Obama's feeble attempts to ameliorate the situation for everyday people have not produced any tangible results since he took office. Unemployment is common as ever, poverty is rampant, and homelessness is soaring. But somehow, no matter what happens on Main Street, Wall Street continues to pull in record profits.

People in the United States, especially youth, must relinquish the entire idea of changing this system from the inside. It is not fixable. Attempting to change this country's policies from the inside can only at best create a tiny thorn in the side of the capitalist class. It is a lonely and unsustainable position to be in. The only way to accomplish real change in this country is to join in a strong peoples movement and demand it from the rulers.



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other imperialist President. At the end of the day, Obama was simply exploiting the pain of people affected by the economic crisis, as he is in no position to improve the situation—the economic crisis is merely another symptom of the disease of U.S. imperialism and corporate capitalism. Obama's feeble attempts to ameliorate the situation for everyday people have not produced any tangible results since he took office. Unemployment is common as ever, poverty is rampant, and homelessness is soaring. But somehow, no matter what happens on Main Street, Wall Street continues to pull in record profits.

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If we all put our time into advancing the peoples' struggle in this country, maybe we could gain enough power to challenge the gaping inequalities the United States has created among its own people and throughout the entire world. Stop trying to get out the vote and start trying to get out the word that the youth movement is growing-out of the ballot box and into the streets! Lets stop slaving away for piecemeal concessions from this current system and start the work of fighting for true system change.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with our friends

A call for unity and solidarity

Fight Imperialism Stand Together (FIST), joins all progressive groups—be they anti-war, anti-imperialist, anti-racist or left generally—in denouncing the raids against anti-imperialist activists in Minnesota, and Illinois and condemns the grand jury subpoenas served on activists in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and any other acts the FBI engaged in to intimidate the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Students for a Democratic Society, the Palestine Solidarity Group, Columbia Action Network and others.

This blatant aggression against forces on the left from progressive and revolutionary organizations is a clear threat against all who have taken a consistent anti-imperialist position, have been in support of national liberation struggles around the world, and who work to expose the lies of the U.S. government and struggle for a better world free from the system from which imperialism has grown.

U.S. policies in Colombia, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere and resistance to those policies have influenced the state's repressive actions. But, also, the over all political climate, both here in the U.S. and around the world, in response to the severe economic downturn can't be divorced from this act of aggression against the left.

The revolutionary youth group FIST stands in solidarity with our friends and calls for solidarity from all left and progressive forces no matter what differences may exist. It is only our solidarity with one another that can halt any future attacks that the FBI or other police and



Hands off FRSO and SDS!

Long Live International Solidarity! All Power to the People!
Fight Imperialism, Stand Together

intelligence agencies may launch to weaken and discredit the burgeoning left movement.

At such a crucial moment we must stand shoulder to shoulder and trumpet the old union motto, "an injury to one is an injury to all."

Can RACISM Win? ... an election or three in Arizona

By J. Ramirez-Hnat
Tucson FIST

This little desert state is waking up to the big politics of think tanks and political strategists as racism is pushed to the forefront of political campaigns. The Republican candidate John Huppenthal has run TV commercials claiming he will defeat La Raza and has made this a major platform of his campaign for Superintendent of Arizona Public Schools.

John Huppenthal is the perfect example of the trend of using racism to win political campaigns in this state. In Arizona, the bill SB2281 may eliminate ethnic studies in public schools this winter. This racist measure was pushed as a campaign vehicle for the latest racist attacks on people of color and immigrants.

Tom Horn was the former Arizona Superintendent of Public Education. He was a virtually unknown figure until he jumped on the bandwagon of the racist attack on the ethnic studies classes for people of color as a political vehicle to gain enough media attention to mount a campaign for Attorney General.

Both of these campaigns are copycats of the most racist campaign for governor in many decades. The campaign of Republican candidate for AZ Governor, Jan Brewer, who signed into law SB1070—the most openly racist ant-immigration law in the country—has been widely publicized. Extremely unpopular before the passage of SB1070, Brewer received a huge political and media boost after sign-

ing the bill. She began to use SB1070 as a political strategy to carve out a block of voters that would keep her in the governor's mansion.

SB1070 is a horribly disgraceful bill that will make it a crime to be caught without identification. This offense would be punishable by a \$300 dollar fine for a first offense, eventually making it a misdemeanor. People could be stopped by police just for looking like they might be undocumented, or for "harboring" someone who might be undocumented. SB1070 basically promises to turn Arizona into a police state for Latin@s and people of color.

The treatment of undocumented workers living in the United States would be horrendous under SB1070. Check points are already commonplace here in Arizona. There have been sweeps in Tucson where hundreds of police block off neighborhoods and go door to door with machine guns. The police detain all the people without papers and herd the workers into pens like animals. Undocumented workers are then put through a kangaroo court where the emphasis is on expediency and not constitutionally protected due process. After a mechanized hearing, the workers are loaded onto prison transport buses and shipped en masse to Mexico.

This is the heinous bill that Brewer signed into law and openly campaigned for passing. This horror was her ticket to a possible elongated stay in the governor's mansion. She blatantly pandered to old racist white people. A constituency



Wake County, North Carolina protest against resegregation of the schools on July 20.

bloated en masse by the retirees from the so-called "Greatest Generation."

Jan Brewer's approval rating in September of 2009 was at 22% according to FoxNews.com. Her popularity soared as she promoted this racist bill over the last year. Brewer went from a deficit of 9 to 11 points depending on the poll in mid-November of 2009 to a 22 point lead over Goddard, the democratic gubernatorial candidate.

The clear indictment of her racist political platform is evident in the debate meltdown she had a week ago. When given the chance to talk, Brewer sputtered and spouted nonsense about SB1070 and literally choked worse than Eminem's character in the movie 8 Mile! Her meltdown was horrible, yet a week later, her supporters are undaunted.

The question of Brewer's supporter's clearly needs to be asked: if she can blow a debate in the worse possible way and still maintain a 22 point lead in the polls a week later, is her support based in anything but pure racism? Brewer has some

solid ties to the American Third Position (A3P). The A3P has been raising a lot of funds for Brewer. They are a nationalist white supremacist party. In November we will see if the politics of blatant racism and its supporters can run away with three elections in Arizona. We will see if the supporters of detention camps and massive deportation policies will prevail. Even if they win in November, however, the people of Arizona will continue their struggle against anti-immigrant racism.

The people have been making their voice heard here in AZ and across the country. In Phoenix people have marched in the hundreds of thousands. The direct action in opposition to SB1070 has been unprecedented in recent decades. Sit-ins have become common, reminiscent of the freedom rides and lunch counter civil disobedience of the 60's and 70's during the civil rights movements. From Indigenous rights activists sitting down at the border checkpoints on reservations to Green

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Wake County school board meeting on July 20. 19 protesters were arrested including 3 FIST members. Photo on page one is from the same protest. PHOTO: ANDY SNEE

Obama and the politics of imperialism

The following excerpts are from a talk given by LeLani Dowel of N.Y. FIST to an Operation Power meeting in Brooklyn, N.Y.

While the election of a Black president was absolutely a historical moment of significance, the Obama administration's policies have shown that the head of the empire must always be on the side of the empire, no matter his or

her background.

When it comes to war in general, the administration's policies have represented not only an extension of Bush's policies, but even an augmentation.

I'd like to read a little from a June 4 Washington Post article, entitled "U.S. 'secret war' expands globally as Special Operations forces take larger role."

"Beneath its commitment to soft-

spoken diplomacy and beyond the combat zones of Afghanistan and Iraq, the Obama administration has significantly expanded a largely secret U.S. war against al-Qaeda and other radical groups. ...

"Obama, one senior military official said, has allowed 'things that the previous administration did not.' ... Bush-era clashes between the Defense and State departments over Special Operations deployments have all but ceased."

Under the Obama administration the United States Africa Command, or AFRICOM, has received additional funding. In 2008 the U.S. conducted a war games exercise in Pennsylvania that simulated a military response to "piracy" and insurgency in Somalia, as well as the collapse of the Nigerian government.

On Oct. 28 of last year, President Barack Obama signed the largest military budget in U.S. history, the 2010 Defense Authorization Act. It's the world's largest military budget — in fact, at \$680 billion, it's larger than the military expenditures of the whole rest of the world combined.

And actually, if you look at the military expenditures that they conveniently leave out of the budget — but still spend, of course — it's more than twice as large. The War Resisters league put real 2009 military expenditures at \$1,449 billion.

The military budget has grown so large that it now threatens to overwhelm and devour all social funding — and we should see it that way. They always want us to keep these things separate — you know, the war funding is over here, the social funding is over here — when really, it's the same money being divided up and passed around.

One of the more insidious tactics of the government is the attempt to get us to endorse war spending by linking progressive legislation to war funding. So a bill on collective bargaining for public safety employees, which recently went before the Congress, was tacked to a bill for funding for the Afghanistan war. Similarly, the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell was tacked on to the Defense Department's annual, massive spending bill.

Of course, we don't want anybody in the military, LGBT or straight. But we support the right of LGBT people to serve in the military free of discrimination — particularly when the economic draft forces them to enlist.

The sheer weight of war spending is squeezing out funding for every human need. U.S. cities are collapsing. For example, every year the American Society of Civil Engineers puts out a report card on U.S. infrastructure. In 2009, the overall GPA for everything from bridges and dams to drinking water, levees, hazardous waste and more was a D.

Meanwhile, unemployment is officially reaching 10 percent and is in reality double that amount. Black and Latino/a youth unemployment is closer to 50 per-

cent. Fourteen million children in the U.S. live in households below the poverty level.

In the middle of an economic crisis that's wreaking havoc on working people, a huge subsidy to some of the largest U.S. corporations — the ones who contract for military and weapons systems — is passed with barely any discussion. According to the Office of Management and Budget, 55 percent of the total 2010 U.S. budget will go to the military.

While the military budget, going forward, is expected to grow by 5 to 10 percent a year, federal funding to states and cities is shrinking by 10 to 15 percent annually, leading to the deficit crises we're seeing in so many cities.

It shows the wild, irrational extremes that imperialism will go to get profits.

Imperialism is the expansion of capitalism throughout the world. The main goal of capitalism is to extract profits — by any means necessary. Under imperialism, the capitalists reach their tentacles out around the world, attempting to exploit as many peoples, natural resources, and countries as possible.

Yet this constant need to squeeze out every bit of profit can make the capitalists short-sighted and irrational, even to

the preservation of their own system. So while at one point, the government may have been able to revive the capitalist economy through war spending, it's no longer enough to solve the problem.

The military budget doesn't create jobs, nor do bank bailouts or, quite frankly, "incentives" to businesses to create jobs. All these things are artificial stimuli that may keep the stock markets ticking, but will ultimately fall flat. But the capitalists can't help themselves — they will always choose immediate superprofit handouts, even over their long-term survival.

It also keeps them constantly seeking out new places on the map to conquer and/or subdue so that they will be able to extract more resources, exploit more cheap labor, and sell their products — often forcing the demise of a country's indigenous products and the indigenous people who produced them.

It's why they wage war in the Middle East; it's why they set up a military command in Africa. It's why a tiny island, socialist Cuba, is such a big threat — an island that is closed to their markets, and an island that reveals the potential of a society that cares for the people of the world more than profits.

Of course, there's the war at home as

well, which certainly hasn't stopped. The banks continue to get bailed out; the people continue to get laid off. People of color continue to be murdered by the cops with absolute impunity.

It's no coincidence that the country with the largest military machine also has the world's largest prison population. As U.S. capitalism becomes less and less willing to provide jobs, job training or education, the only options offered are prisons or the military. The prison population also represents yet another pool of exploitable labor for the imperialists, and in fact the prison industrial complex is the only growth industry right now.

So I don't need to tell you all this, but it's imperative for us to fight all this. The great thing is that while they have power, imperialism's short-sightedness will create more folks like us who are learning their strength and organizing to fight back. It's been happening around the world, where despite all the Pentagon's fancy, high-tech weapons, the U.S. geopolitical position is slipping year after year.

Around the world, people are resisting with the determination to control their own futures. And that will ultimately — not today or tomorrow, but ultimately — lead to imperialism's demise.

Can RACISM Win? ... an election in Arizona

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Anarchists locking-down in front of jails, from anonymous direct action activists setting up roadblocks on major highways with used tires and broken glass to banner drops and occupations of mountains and streets the message has been sent. The workers of this country have spoken. The people are starting to wake up and have had enough!

Will the elections this November be decided by racism? The two party system of capitalism is failing to provide the people a voice in this country. The politics of the corporate status quo is beginning to rip apart at its seams as the people begin to look for a new political party based upon more human values. Where will the peo-

ple look to for a more humane political party? The only historical answer provided to people searching for new answers is socialism. Socialism is radically different than the two party system we currently have in the United States. In a socialist country; the right to vote, to housing, to healthcare, to a university education, and to a job that provides a livable wage are all human rights guaranteed for all people. It is important to know what we stand for and are fighting for.

It is vitally important that we show all people all over the world that we are massively different than the political parties of bankers and corporate greed. We are not just fighting against racism, fighting to save our planet and humanity!

NO END IN SIGHT — Youth unemployment hits record high

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promise funding for college, are finding it easier to recruit young people who can't find jobs or afford to attend college. Recruitment levels are at their highest since before 2003, especially among working-class youth, including men and women from oppressed communities.

While the growth of low-wage jobs has been traditionally high among women workers, increased job competition has hurt women workers. Young women face a global unemployment rate of 13.2 percent, as opposed to the rate of 12.9 percent for young men, which is very high, too.

Lesbian/gay/bi/trans/queer youth face increasing uncertainty, as well as few protections from discrimination and bigotry.



With the lack of rights at work, as well as the lack of high-paying union jobs that offer job security and protections for them and all workers, this precariousness and inequality will only continue.

The attacks on public education are increasing. State and local governments are cutting funds for education at all levels. There is more of a push to train young workers for a world of low-wage jobs, instead of providing higher education.

Local governments are shutting down high schools, especially those which are attended mostly by students of color. This is a result of the "Race to the Top," the Obama administration's answer to the tremendously unpopular Bush administration policy of "No Child Left Behind."

Tuition is skyrocketing at public and private universities, such as the 32 percent hike at the University of California system last year. Meanwhile, class sizes are getting bigger. There are fewer living wage jobs to help students pay off their mountain of debt.

Youth need jobs. They need to organize to get them. On Oct. 2, young people will be fighting for jobs in a Youth and Students Contingent at the One Nation March in Washington, D.C. On Oct. 7, youth worldwide will unite to defend their right to an education. These are important mobilizations, as youth and all workers must continue to build a fight-back movement.

Youth have always been key to building popular struggles, whether for Black liberation, LGBTQ rights, opposing war or in student movements. With their energy, excitement and passion youth must continue to fight for a better world, one that enshrines their rights to an education, a job or an income, and equality for all people.

National Day of ACTION to Defend Public Education

Thursday Oct 7 4 pm Rally

EDUCATION IS A RIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT



<http://defendpubliceducation.wordpress.com/> <http://raleighfist.wordpress.com/>

Anti-war student targeted by FBI

By Megan Spencer FIST East Lansing, Mich.

Ahlam Mohsen, the 22-year-old Michigan State University student and anti-war activist arrested for throwing a pie at U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, is now the subject of an FBI investigation and faces possible federal charges of assaulting a member of Congress.

On Aug. 16, during a Mecosta County Democrats meeting in Big Rapids, Mich., Mohsen threw an apple pie at Levin after anti-war activist Max Kantar read a statement accusing the senator of war crimes as chair of the Armed Services Committee. Levin was targeted for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as continued U.S. funding of Israel's war against the Palestinian people.

Mohsen was arrested and held on a quarter-million-dollar bond at the Mecosta County Jail, where she faced felony charges of stalking and assault. She reportedly was the victim of racist epithets at the jail because of her Arab background and was also denied food that met her dietary requirements as a vegan.

The Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice organized a protest Aug. 20 in Detroit that received widespread media coverage around the state, including Big Rapids, where Mohsen was incarcerated. A Facebook support page quickly grew to include hundreds of



federal criminal charge like the one facing Mohsen only occurs when it's done as a form of anti-war protest.

The potential charges Mohsen faces indicate a significant attack by both the state and the federal government on free speech and the right of the people to protest injustices. The state is trying to use fear and intimidation to prevent the people from holding elected officials accountable for the consequences of their deeds regarding war.

Mohsen's brave actions have drawn attention to the fact that the U.S. continues to inflict violent injustices upon the people of the Middle East and other oppressed groups throughout the world. It is imperative that the people stand with her and insist that all charges against her be dropped immediately.

Supporters are urgently encouraged to take action to ensure that justice is won for Ahlam Mohsen:

Contact Sen. Carl Levin's office and demand that all charges and the federal investigation against Mohsen be dropped immediately. Phone Levin at 313-226-6020; fax 313-226-6948; or e-mail by going to <http://levin.senate.gov/contact/>.

Call the Mecosta County Prosecutor's Office directly at 231-592-0141 and demand that all charges against Mohsen be dropped in full.

WISDOM FROM LENIN

Are elections the path to justice?

By Caleb T. Maupin
Cleveland FIST



Lenin also showed how in many cases, workers simply do not have time for politics, as they slave long hours of little pay and come home exhausted. Lenin pointed out that in elections, the workers simply get to choose which leader shall preside over the system that represses and abuses them. Never will they be allowed to determine whether that system continues.

Capitalist Dictatorship in the Modern U.S.

Lenin's writings on the situation in early 1900s are still accurate in describing the conditions of today. In modern times, elections cost millions and millions of dollars. Serious candidates devote the majority of their time to raising funds, in order to advertise and be treated as a "serious" contender for public office.

The mass media, with its ability to craft public opinion, is itself "private property." Whether it's MSNBC, owned by General Electric, or FOX news, owned by Australian billionaire Rupert Murdoch, control of information workers receive on political matters is in the hands of the very people responsible for their miserable conditions.

The elected officials of the U.S., both Democrats and Republicans, receive countless millions in funding from banks, insurance companies, industrial giants, and other entities with massive wealth. In addition, the "political action committees" that carry out advertising are equally loaded with the money of the wealthy few. The various "campaign finance reform" laws have really only reformed and further legalized this "direct corruption of public officials."

Banks, corporations, industries, and other sources of massive profits called "capital" are owned and controlled by a wealthy few. This wealthy few then is able to control the government, within the "capitalist" system.

The government, a tool of the rich, has at its disposal, the military, the police, the prisons, the courts, and the various "machinery of repression." The government, unlike individuals, has the right to fine, imprison, and even murder those who defy its laws. These things insure the "dictatorship of the bourgeoisie" as they are able to rule society, and keep working and oppressed people in misery under their domination.

The government of the United States, despite demagogic claims of "freedom and democracy," has never really been anything other than the "executive commit-

tee" of the wealthy. The officials of the U.S. government are employees of the capitalist class, and likewise, they obey their orders.

It is not because of "popular demand" that they cut social spending, give billions to fund banks, wage unjust wars, and allow police terror to run rampant. It is because the government, like the industries, the banks, and all other sources of wealth, is the "private property" of a few individual owners.

Capitalist Power in U.S. History

The first bodies of political power in the U.S. colonies, prior to the American Revolution, were the "house of bourgeois." Burgess is merely an archaic term property owner, the English version of the French word "bourgeoisie."

In 1848, the year the communist Manifesto was written, workers all over Europe were in revolt. They demanded, among other things, the right to vote.

Originally, the "democracies" established after the French, German, U.S., and English Revolution did not allow those who did not own private property to vote. Working people, with nothing to sell but their own labor power, were excluded from the new "democratic" governments.

In the United States, it was not until the passage of the 15th Amendment, guaranteeing all men the right to vote after the civil war that men who did not own property secured the right to vote in every state. Women did not win the right to vote in the U.S. until 1920. Laws protecting people of color from extralegal methods of intimidating them from voting were not established until 1963.

The founders of the U.S., long before such "reforms" were won made no apologies for the fact that they sought for government merely to be another piece of "private property" for the wealthy. These same "founding fathers" are touted by the "Tea Party" bigots as if they are to be idealized!

Throughout U.S. history, the lack of political power in the hands of working people is revealed time and time again. Around the same time Lenin wrote his groundbreaking work, Woodrow Wilson ran for President of the U.S. promising to "keep us out of war." After his election, when the capitalists demanded it, thousands of young workers were conscripted into the military and sent to die in the trenches of World War I.

Likewise, Democrat Lyndon Johnson was elected President by those who opposed the Republican Party's call for escalation of the Vietnam War. When elected, Johnson escalated the war, paving the way for 58,000 U.S. soldiers, and 4 million people in Vietnam to die.

Bill Clinton took office in the name of reversing the anti-working class policies of Reagan and Bush. When taking office, he instituted so-called "Welfare Reform" laws and destroyed the lives of millions of working people. Clinton happily signed the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) helping further the decline of workers lives, forcing them to compete with workers across the globe for low wage jobs.

Clinton had campaigned in opposition to the "war mongering" policies of Reagan and Bush, but was happy to bomb Serbia, Iraq, and Sudan in defense of Wall Street profits and corporate power.

In U.S. History, it is only when capitalist power has been challenged outside of the "safe" election arena, that victories were won. A mass movement of millions in the U.S., combined with great heroism on the part of millions in Vietnam, forced a right-wing militarist, Richard Nixon, to withdraw U.S. forces from Vietnam.

Social Security was won through massive rebellions in the 1930s, where unemployed councils marched on Washington D.C. and battled police. Trade unions occupied factories in "sit down strikes," forcing the creation of union contracts, decent wages, and job stability.

In 2006, it seemed that the ruthless anti-Immigrant "Sensenbrenner Bill" would become law. However, when the streets shook with thousands and thousands of immigrant workers and their allies protesting, and May 1st, the International Workers Holiday, was revived the U.S., the government suddenly changed its tune the harsh bill flopped. The power of working people in their millions, raising their own demands were heard, not through punching ballots, but through pounding pavement, screaming through bullhorns, and disrupting the status quo.

Civil Rights legislation, affirmative action, and other victories for the nationally oppressed came at a time when urban rebellions rocked the country. Overturning Jim Crow involved the efforts of thousands of youth who were unafraid to get arrested, beaten, and sometimes killed in protest of racist conditions and oppression.

The Dictatorship of the Proletariat

Lenin's book, *The State and Revolution*, explained how through struggling against capitalist power, popular organizations could be forged. Lenin called for these new centers of power that he called "Councils of Worker's and Soldiers Deputies" to become the new state. Popular Committees and organizations of the people could replace the police, the army, and such. These organizations could take ownership and democratic control of the industries and vast resources of society.

This, Lenin said was called "Socialism" or "the First State of Communism."

In the modern United States, there is a need more than ever to form a broad independent workers movement. This movement must not owe its allegiance to any capitalist party or politician, but must make its own demands. It must fight against racism, imperialism, police terror, unemployment, wage cuts, and all the horrors that face working people.

This movement, backed with popular assemblies and democratic bodies, can lay the basis for a new state, not controlled by the wealthy. This new state, will be a "dictatorship of the proletariat" as working and oppressed people – not the rich – will dictate government policy and control society.

After the 2008 elections, when Sen. Barack Obama was elected as president, Fight Imperialism Stand Together (FIST) wrote, "U.S. imperialism is unchanging. What does it matter if a hearty handshake and smile precede a knife in the back? This is what the Democrats offer."

History, however, belongs to the masses and it is the masses whose demands will prove to be the strongest. Though some in the Democratic Party may have intended the words "hope" and "change" to be slogans void of content, the expectations of the masses is that these words bear substance.

An historic event had taken place: a Black person was elected president of the preeminent imperialist power in the world, a country that was built from the blood and mire of genocide, slavery, rape, theft of land, the primitive accumulation of capital. The current capitalist class owes what it has to this history.

In the U.S. racism has been continually used as a weapon to blunt a unified workers struggle and workers of color have continued to suffer from the strains of a system where racism is so pervasive. The importance of the election of

Obama cannot be disputed. It is objectively progressive. FIST wrote, "(a)nd, indeed, after hundreds of years of oppression—from when the first slaves were brought to the shores of North America, shackled in chains, after having survived for what must have seemed an inexorable amount of time cramped together as cargo in the holds of a ship, having witnessed other Africans tossed overboard, whose remains still litter the Atlantic Ocean—the oppressed Black masses deserve a Black president."

After years of oppression and repression—de facto slavery, U.S. apartheid, lynching, the assassination of leaders, poverty and disenfranchisement, up to the current state of racism and repression—and only three years removed from Hurricane Katrina, this symbolic victory and the tears of joy and relief, the smiles and exclamations of Black people young and old, cannot be denied or simply dismissed.

How must anti-imperialists and revolutionaries interpret the Obama phenomenon and the congressional gains of the Democratic Party?

It is the duty of revolutionary Marxists to analyze any rising of the oppressed

Miami youth sing: 'Happy Birthday Fidel!'

By Michael Martinez
Miami FIST

It was a hot summer night, like most regular humid evenings in South Florida. Most people who are familiar with Miami would be surprised to find themselves in the midst of a crowd of young people singing, "Happy birthday" to Cuban socialist leader Fidel Castro. "Happy birthday Fidel. Happy birthday Fidel. Happy birthday Fidel. Happy birthday Fidel. Happy birthday to you!"

We celebrated Fidel's birthday that Aug. 14 night at the grand opening of The Underground Railroad, the city's newest poetry hangout. No, it was not just a case of "Saturday night fever." Instead, it's a clear indication of the changes brewing in the Cuban community here.

Scores of youth expressed their solidarity with the Cuban revolution and praised its rebel commander, who had just turned 84 years old the night before. Poet after poet took the floor that night, filling the hall with spoken word poetry full of audacious verses and conscious rhymes, reflecting the radicalization occurring among the young people of today. The angry words pierced the night, retelling tales of the horrors of capitalism: imperialist wars, foreclosures, unemployment, police brutality, lack of health care and no opportunities to advance or attend college.

The venue's host, Malik Shabaaz, a Nuyorican poet who has been a popular fixture in Miami's spoken word scene for almost a decade, set the mood. Malik is an activist with the Republic of New Af-

rica (RNA) and the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA).

Shabaaz was born to a Puerto Rican family in New York's South Bronx. His father joined the Nation of Islam – inspired by the teachings of Malcolm X.

Under the stage name "Prophet," Shabaaz recites with fiery diction and wit, easily conveying his message of Puerto Rican independence and overall revolutionary change to the audience with persuasive and passionate lines. As coordinator of the open mic, Prophet has offered Miami FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) a weekly spot on the program and has given the youth organization a platform to reach out and introduce the ideas of Marx, Lenin and Che to those who show up and spend the evening.

Revolutionary-minded youth of all types made up the fervent audience and included members of Iraq Veterans Against the War and its national chairperson, Camilo Mejia. Many ideas on how to overthrow the profit-driven system of exploitation were exchanged, including a segment discussing the term "white supremacy" and what those words meant to everyone present.

Far from being a one-time event, this new poetry spot is programmed for every Saturday night starting at 8 p.m. and opened its doors just in time for the "back to school" season, attracting college and high school age working-class youth, even though it was noted that many could not afford the tuition and costs necessary to go back to school this year.

Workers World Party Regional Southern Conference Durham, N.C. Oct. 23
Marvell Event Center, 119W. Main St., Durham, N.C.



WWP NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NYC
NOVEMBER 12 — 14
www.workersworld.net



FIST EDITORIAL

This system can't be fixed

and workers. It is Frederick Engels, a companion of Karl Marx and co-writer of "The Communist Manifesto," who wrote that universal suffrage is "the gauge of the maturity of the working class. It cannot and never will be anything more in the present-day state."

The reality is that the Obama phenomenon and the Democratic Party gains are buttressed by two contradictory sets of expectations—those of the imperialistic, capitalist ruling class, and those of the oppressed Black masses, other oppressed nations and the working class as a whole.

The corporate media has been covering intensely the midterm elections and the declining support for the Democratic Party, all the while over exposing the ultra right wing movement characterized by the Tea Party.

There has been a shift to the right. The Democratic Party has shifted and the electorate has shifted as well, both affected by the current capitalist crisis.

The shift of the Democratic Party is a reflection illuminates the fact that it is a party of the ruling class. The crisis is one of structure; capitalism has become so productive that it has affected the ability of the capitalist classes in the imperialist world's ability to gain greater and greater profit.

In states and local governments there have been massive cutbacks, which have been attributed to the massive loss of jobs and the declining revenue from taxes, but the federal government has given trillions to banks and financial institutions. Local and state governments have put meeting interest payments to bond holders and banks above the needs of people and the federal government has passed the highest Pentagon budget ever:

nearly \$700 billion.

The Democratic Party and the Republican Party both have carried out the interests of the U.S. ruling class. Where there have been differences, they have mostly been centered around issues such as healthcare, reinstating tax breaks for the rich and in whether or not to give more money directly to businesses or save a few crumbs for distressed local and state governments for structural improvements. While there have been differences, especially around domestic social issues, both capitalist parties have used the crisis and the so-called budget deficits as an excuse to dramatically decrease social spending, to more aggressively dismantle public education and to attack public sector workers, most notably teachers.

The Democratic Party has demonstrated that its interests lie in saving the capitalist system. A political break is needed.

Other parties, such as the Freedom Party in New York, rooted in the struggles of oppressed and Black and Latino leadership, pose a better way forward for the oppressed in the U.S. and workers in general and in the current election cycle the Freedom Party should be supported. The greatest support will come from a movement and any political party from and for the masses has its feet in the stirrings of struggle.

FIST wrote, finally, "Struggle will come and the millions who took to the streets in celebration of an historic event, and the millions more who watched with gleams in their eyes, will not disappear, but will take to the streets as conditions intensify. As the capitalist crisis plunges deeper, the prospects for struggle and for socialism are looking up."

BE IN PHILADELPHIA OCT. 9 WORLD DAY AGAINST DEATH PENALTY



Several key members of U.S. anti-death penalty organizations have recently made a move to exclude political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal from the movement to abolish the death penalty, arguing that Mumia's inclusion alienated potential law enforcement supporters of the abolition movement! This position caused an international uproar.

October 9 will be a reaffirmation of a real and unifying abolition movement:

**We demand 100 percent abolition Now!
No exceptions (including MUMIA)!**

9 a.m. Rally at Fraternal Order of Police Headquarters, Broad St. and Spring Garden

We demonstrate at the FOP because of their long-term, vicious commitment to executions, even in cases of innocence, and their terrorist attacks against those who fight for justice.

10 a.m. — March begins

11:30 a.m. — Indoor rally at La Familia, 1310 N. Broad St.

Scheduled Participants: Welfare Poets, former death row prisoners, journalist Linn Washington and many others

Sponsors: Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Texas Moratorium Network, Campaign to End the Death Penalty, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, International Action Center, Witness to Innocence (Philadelphia), exonerees from death row
For more information, including Oct. 9 NYC transportation to Philadelphia, visit www.freemumia.com or call 212-330-8029.

Rainbow Solidarity In Defense of CUBA

By Leslie Feinberg,
author of *Stone Butch Blues*

This ground-breaking book documents revolutionary Cuba's inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, genders & sexes.



Available at Leftbooks.com



El otoño 2010 Vol. 1, Num. 4 \$1.00



No se atisba el final El desempleo juvenil alcanza récord histórico

Por Scott Williams

De acuerdo al informe del 11 de agosto "Tendencias Mundiales de Empleo para los Jóvenes 2010", ofrecido por la Organización Internacional del Trabajo, una agencia de la ONU, más de 82 millones de jóvenes de 16 a 25 años de edad, o el 13 por ciento de 620 millones de trabajadores jóvenes en todo el mundo, están desempleados.

Incluso esta cifra récord evade la realidad del desempleo global de las masas, el subempleo y la pobreza que enfrentan los trabajadores jóvenes. Por lo general, trabajan en puestos de trabajo con bajos salarios y sin beneficios ni seguridad en el empleo y viven en constante desesperación e incertidumbre. Una cuarta parte de todos los jóvenes empleados – o 152 millones – permanecen en la pobreza extrema, viven en hogares que ganan menos de \$ 1.25 por día.

Más de la mitad de los jóvenes en los EE.UU., de edades entre 16 y 24, no tienen trabajo. Según un estudio realizado por la AFL-CIO, uno de cada tres trabajadores jóvenes vive con sus padres. Alrededor de un tercio no tienen seguro médico y la otra tercera parte no puede pagar sus cuentas. Siete de cada 10 no tienen el dinero suficiente para cubrir dos meses de gastos.

Los jóvenes de las comunidades oprimidas son los más afectados por la crisis capitalista. La juventud Negra encara un porcentaje de desempleo por encima del 50 por ciento. El programa de la Radio Pública Nacional (NPR) "All Things Con-

sidered", informa que menos de 14 de cada 100 jóvenes Negros tienen trabajo. La juventud latina se enfrenta igualmente a altas tasas de desempleo.

Aunque ya existen menos posibilidades de conseguir un trabajo, incluso cuando no hay beneficios, los jóvenes de las comunidades oprimidas, incluidos los inmigrantes, se enfrentan a un mayor desempleo y más competencia por los trabajos de bajos salarios. Ellos han sido afectados por la pérdida de millones de empleos manufactureros en los EE.UU. en la última década, así como la actual recesión. Son objeto de discriminación racista y son a menudo los últimos en ser contratados y los primeros en ser despedidos si es que logran un empleo.

Los patrones se aprovechan del grupo de trabajadores desempleados para sustituir a trabajadores que intentan organizarse en contra de la desigualdad económica del capitalismo. La clase capitalista y el Estado cada vez más criminalizan y encarcelan a los jóvenes de color, en lugar de crear empleos con salarios dignos y beneficios.

Mientras que los jóvenes ven menos oportunidades de empleo, el Army de EE.UU. los ve como un potencial de reclutamiento. Desde que comenzó la crisis económica, a los reclutadores militares, que falsamente prometen fondos para la universidad, les resulta más fácil reclutar a jóvenes que no pueden darse el lujo de asistir a la universidad, o no encuentran trabajo. Los niveles de reclutamiento están por encima de los del 2003, especial-

mente entre los jóvenes de la clase trabajadora, incluyendo a hombres y mujeres de comunidades oprimidas.

Mientras que el crecimiento de puestos de trabajo de bajos salarios ha sido tradicionalmente elevada entre las mujeres trabajadoras, el aumento en la competencia por un empleo ha afectado a las trabajadoras. Las jóvenes se enfrentan a una tasa mundial de desempleo de 13,2 por ciento, en comparación con la de 12,9 para los hombres jóvenes, considerado como muy alto también.

Jóvenes lesbianas / gays / bi o transsexuales, enfrentan la incertidumbre cada vez mayor de la poca protección contra la discriminación y la intolerancia. Con la falta de derechos en el trabajo, así como la falta de empleos sindicalizados bien remunerados que ofrecen seguridad laboral y protección para ellos y todos los trabajadores, esta precariedad y desigualdad sólo continuará.

Los ataques contra la educación pública van en aumento. Los gobiernos estatales y locales están reduciendo los fondos para la educación en todos los niveles. Hay más interés para capacitar a los trabajadores jóvenes por un mundo de empleos con bajos salarios, en lugar de proporcionar la educación superior.

Los gobiernos locales están cerrando las escuelas secundarias, en especial aquellas que son frecuentadas principalmente por estudiantes de color. Este es el resultado de la "Race to the Top", respuesta de la administración Obama a la política de la administración tremenda-

mente impopular de George W. Bush de "No Child Left Behind".

La matrícula se ha disparado en las universidades públicas y privadas, tales como el aumento del 32 por ciento en el sistema de la Universidad de California el año pasado. Mientras tanto, las clases son cada vez más grandes. Hay menos puestos de trabajo con salarios dignos para ayudar a los estudiantes a pagar su montaña de deudas.

Los jóvenes necesitan empleos. Tienen que organizarse para conseguirlos. El 2 de octubre, los jóvenes estarán luchando por puestos de trabajo en un contingente de la Juventud y Estudiantes en la marcha de "One Nation" en Washington, D.C.. El 07 de octubre, los jóvenes de todo el mundo se unirán para defender su derecho a la educación. Se trata de importantes movilizaciones, porque los jóvenes y los trabajadores deben continuar la creación de un movimiento de contraataque.

Los jóvenes siempre han sido la clave para la creación de las luchas populares, ya sea por la liberación Negra, los derechos de LGBT, en oposición a la guerra o en movimientos estudiantiles. Con su energía, entusiasmo y pasión, la juventud debe seguir luchando por un mundo mejor, que consagra sus derechos a la educación, un empleo o un ingreso, y la igualdad para todos.

Scott Williams es un miembro de la Juventud F.I.S.T. (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together – Todos Juntos en la Lucha Contra el Imperialismo) de Raleigh, North Carolina.

Día nacional de acción para defender la educación pública

Asamblea Jueves 7 de octubre a las 4 pm

<http://defendcapubliceducation.wordpress.com/>
<http://raleighfist.wordpress.com/>



No recortes del presupuesto— impuestos para Wall Street

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march4ny.wordpress.com