

Capitalism is starving people around the world

- 3 Billion people - half of humanity - live with malnutrition and food insecurity.
- 18,000 children die *daily* as a direct or indirect consequence of malnutrition.¹
- In 2006 over 35 million people lived in food-insecure households, including 13 million children.
- Bay Area food prices have increased roughly 60 % in the last 5 years.

Food prices are rising around the world.

- The price of oil, which heavily affects food prices, has more than doubled in the past year.
- Corn prices have soared by about 70% since fall 2006.
- Rice prices have risen over 100% in the last year.²

Food prices matter to Bay Area residents.

- Over 1 million East Bay workers have not seen a pay raise since the 2001 recession. The East Bay's economy increasingly resembles a "tear-drop"- bulging at the bottom and growing narrow at the middle and top.³
 - The rising cost of necessities like food and gas are basically a wage reduction for the bottom part of the population.
- We need raises or lower prices – or both!**

Who wins from high food prices?

Global agricultural corporations. Although food has gotten more expensive at the check-out stand, global corporations have been able to produce it more and more cheaply. Net earnings for three world-wide food corporations (Monsanto, Cargill, and Archer Daniels Midland), increased by 60% in the first three months of this year, from 2.36 to 3.77 billion dollars. They get rich as children starve.*

Who loses?

Everyone else – including small farmers, workers and the unemployed.
25,000 Indian farmers committed suicide last year.

What are people doing about it?

- There have been food riots in many countries, including Haiti, the Philippines and Egypt. French fishermen have blocked major ports with their boats. Farmers have gone on strike in Spain, Italy, Germany and Belgium.
- Here in California, truckers have gone on strike and blockaded ports to protest rising diesel fuel costs.



What can we learn from these workers in other countries? When are we going to stop letting the rich get richer at our expense?



“Today the attention of the world’s policy makers is focused on the sub-prime woes, and the financial crises. But the real crisis is that of hunger and malnutrition...”

-Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, managing director of the World Bank.

¹ Associated Press, February 18, 2007

²“High Rice Cost Creating Fears of Asia Unrest,” New York Times, March 29, 2008.

³Labor Day 2007: East Bay Working Families Working Harder, for Less” EBASE August 2007

