

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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## PL'ers Bring Red Ideas:

# Wisconsin Workers in Class War vs. Bosses' Attacks



**MADISON, WISCONSIN, February 25** — Tens of thousands of workers flooded and encircled the State Capitol building here in a continuing protest against Governor Walker's wage- and benefit-cutting proposals hitting State workers which would deny them collective bargaining rights and effectively bust their unions. The bill has already passed the State Assembly.

The exhilarating demonstrations included teachers, students, plumbers, postal and iron workers, firefighters, state workers and their supporters — black, white, Latino, Asian and Native American, women and men, young and old, able-bodied and in wheelchairs. The multi-racial crowds were joined by workers from Chicago, Iowa, Los Angeles, New Jersey, Ohio, Minnesota and Texas. Entire families participated along with sign-wearing dogs with "Tax the Rich!" posters. Over half the signs were hand-made, reflecting the rank-and-file nature of the protestors.

The militant workers slept overnight in the State House, packing the 4-story structure solid, hanging banners over the upper floors while thousands more rallied outside. The crowd of 10,000 protestors on February 14 grew to 70,000 within four days.

The demonstrators' militancy has inspired workers worldwide. They cheered the picture of a worker from Egypt holding a sign in Cairo's Tahrir Square proclaiming, "Egypt Supports Wisconsin Workers!"

This attack on government workers is a part of the assault on workers internationally as the world's capitalists try to "solve" their general crisis on the backs of the working class, with racist unemployment mounting into the tens of millions; wage-cutting; pension reductions; slashing health care; and home foreclosures throwing even more workers into homelessness.

This onslaught falls especially heavy on black, Latino and Asian workers who, because of the system's racism, suffer double rates of unemployment, home foreclosures and healthcare cuts, but inevitably affects the rest of the working class. Racism splits and weakens our entire class in our efforts to fight the bosses.

U.S. rulers use the trillions of dollars stolen from the working class in this crisis to finance their imperialist wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, and interventions in Somalia, Yemen and the rest of the Middle East. They are in a death fight with their competitors in Europe, Russia, China and Japan to preserve their control of oil and its distribution, without which their profit-driven societies and armies cannot function.

PLP members and friends from Chicago and Minnesota joined the demonstration and held a bullhorn rally adjacent to the line of workers marching around the Capitol building. They distributed 220 CHALLENGES and 1,700 leaflets, emphasizing that it was a communist paper and that workers need a communist revolution. They were greeted with a markedly positive response. One teacher reacted to our call for a widespread strike saying she thought "the whole country should be shut down!"

A high school teacher asked for extra PLP flyers to take back to her co-workers and willingly gave her contact information as did a Chicago librarian on the bus to Madison after taking our literature and hearing us speak at the rally. PL'ers led mini-rallies and discussed the Party's ideas with protesting workers. Many conversations centered on the role of the Democratic legislators who have put themselves in the leadership of

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## Koch Billionaires Behind Anti-Worker Rampage

The anti-government worker campaign in Wisconsin is being financed by the billionaire Koch brothers whose money helped elect the Governor leading the charge and whose legislation will give the Koch's a possible stranglehold on Wisconsin's state-owned utility system.

Under the headline, "Billionaire Brothers' Money Plays Role in Wisconsin Budget Dispute," the NY Times reported (2/22) that a "non-profit" group "created and financed...by the secretive...Charles and David Koch....was one of the biggest contributors to the election campaign of Gov. Scott Walker." Furthermore, "the Koch brothers are using their money to create a façade of grass-roots support for their favorite causes."

While Walker has lumped the cuts on state workers' benefits with destroying their collective bargaining rights, the unions and the Democrats have said they will agree to the cuts as long as the bargaining rights are retained. They will then claim that as a "victory" if Walker agrees to such a "compromise" in order to get Senate Bill 11 passed. But well-hidden in that Bill is Section 44 that says the State "may sell any state-owned heating, cooling and power plant...with or without solicitation of bids for any amount" that the State "determines to be in the best interests of the state."

That would enable Walker to sell the state-owned utility system to the Koch brothers "for pennies on the dollar." Website: <http://motherjones.com/mojo/2011/Wisconsin-scott-walker-koch-brothers>

The Koch's already own a 4,000-mile pipeline system all across Wisconsin as well as Flint Hills Resources (a leading refining and chemical company whose products are distributed through Koch's pipelines) and the C. Reiss Coal Company, a leading supplier of coal used to generate power.

Combine that with control of the state's utility system and the Koch's will have achieved a virtual monopoly on Wisconsin's gas, oil and electric power.

Should all this transpire, they will also have spread anti-working-class lies, slashed workers' benefits and reaped a fortune of profits on the backs of all government and non-government workers in the state.

Capitalism is wonderful — for the bosses. ☹

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If anyone has copies of the 1964 to 1968 issues of CHALLENGE, please send them in.

# N. Africa to Mid East to Asia: Capitalism's Survival Undercuts Workers' Revolt; Wider Wars Loom

Tens of thousands of workers and youth are waging a political battle to overthrow U.S.-backed corrupt fascist dictators, cutting a wide swath throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Many have taken up arms and risked their lives fighting brutal attacks by the rulers' cops and armies, whose tanks, guns and tear gas are marked "Made in USA."

The rebels are also going on strike against the ravages of capitalism — skyrocketing food prices and massive unemployment — demanding jobs.

Unfortunately these courageous workers and youth will wind up with the same capitalist system that has produced this mass poverty and fascist conditions. What leadership that does exist is not fighting for workers' power — communism



## OUR FIGHT

- ★ **Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.**
- ★ **Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.**
- ★ **Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.**
- ★ **While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.**
- ★ **Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. 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." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.**
- ★ **Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.**
- ★ **Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.**
- ★ **Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.**
- ★ **Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!**

**PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY**  
P.O. Box 808 Brooklyn NY 11202  
• [www.plp.org](http://www.plp.org)  
• email: [desafio.challenge@gmail.com](mailto:desafio.challenge@gmail.com)  
• blog: [challengenewspaper.wordpress.com](http://challengenewspaper.wordpress.com)

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— which would destroy the profit system and its ruling bosses. This only highlights the necessity to build the Progressive Labor Party to develop the kind of leadership that would make a fundamental change, a real revolution that tossing out the old ruling class and put the working class in power.

However, the U.S. is trying to play both sides. While the rebellions oppose dictators backed by the U.S., their replacements might be U.S.-backed also. Some student rebels have been trained by CIA front groups (see CHALLENGE article [2/19/11] at a 2008 organizing conference at Columbia University in NYC) as well as a union movement trained by the AFL-CIA.

Significantly these struggles are raging in and near the heart of U.S. rulers' energy-based global empire, raising big questions: Will pro- or anti-U.S. bosses gain long-term advantage from the conflicts? And now that many Arab lands are, or could be, under shaky new management, how can Exxon Mobil and its Big Oil buddies hang on to critical oil fields and shipping routes?

Iran's ayatollahs made their opportunistic aims clear by sending a pair of warships through embroiled Egypt's Suez Canal into the Mediterranean, long controlled by the U.S. Sixth Fleet. Meanwhile, Obama & Co.'s response involves expanding the scope of liberal President Jimmy Carter's oil "Doctrine":

"An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force. (Carter's 1980 State of the Union Address)

Today's revolts could spread to Carter's obvious focus, Saudi Arabia, U.S. imperialism's most vital energy interest. So Obama's actual and possible combat theater protecting U.S. bosses' "vital interests" now stretches from the mountains of Pakistan across the Gulf to the North African coast. And now the U.S. military has admitted its Afghan strategy is failing, and is withdrawing from strategic areas in that country. (NY Times, 2/25)

### Liberal Bosses Want 20,000 Troops for Libyan Bloodbath

Libya, where dictator Qaddafi's thugs have killed hundreds, and Exxon and U.S. ally BP have

### 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.

### Liberal Gary Hart Seeks to Turn Wisconsin Protests to U.S. War Aims

Writing about Tea Partiers whose policies are running counter to U.S. imperialist aims from Madison to Tripoli, imperialist strategist Hart says, "There are lessons to be learned meanwhile about the limits of ...American power. The struggle here is whether we will return to a pre-New Deal America with many fewer ladders of opportunity, safety nets for the poor and elderly, and regulatory protections for consumers, workers, and the environment." (Hart's weblog, 2/21) Hart wants a new New Deal, with even more ladders and nets. He understands U.S. rulers' need to somehow recreate Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal whose purpose was to save the capitalist system. FDR ran an alphabet soup of social programs, from the militaristic CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) to the job-creating (though slave wage) WPA (Works Progress Administration). It was these, along with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, that helped overcome Tea Party-style 1930s isolationism by luring workers into the arms of a war-making government.

had to suspend drilling for crude oil, is especially worrisome to U.S. rulers. The NY Times (2/27) summed up these risks: "The worst-case scenario, should the rebellion topple him,...is...a failed state where Al Qaeda or other radical groups could exploit the chaos and operate with impunity."

Michael O'Hanlon, military expert at the liberal Brookings Institution, urged the Pentagon to prepare a ground force, contrasting Libya with U.S. inaction in the 1994 crisis in Rwanda: "It would have taken closer to 20,000 troops, or more, to do the job right. There could well be a similar requirement here." (Brookings website, 2/25) Obama booster O'Hanlon even provides the outlines of a body count: "We could lose one of our soldiers or Marines for every 10 enemy fighters we had to take down. If Qadhafi loyalists numbered in the thousands...we could lose hundreds of U.S. troops." O'Hanlon would no doubt recommend the same treatment for al Qaeda sympathizers in Libya.

But Saudi Arabia, as the world's greatest petroleum source and ExxonMobil's biggest supplier, poses far graver concerns for U.S. bosses — so grave, in fact, that they resort to code to speak about it publicly. Michael Levi, a fellow at the influential Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), funded by Rockefeller, Exxon and J.P. Morgan Chase, wrote: "If unrest actually migrated to the desert kingdom...Riyadh [Saudi's capital] would probably impress on the world that it needed support if they didn't want to see prices get out of control. That would be a credible threat, and could result in a very concrete set of responses" (CFR website, 2/25/11).

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# Women, Kids Battle Racist Israeli Cops Serving U.S. Tycoon



Jewish and Palestinian youth defy racist cops.

**AI-ARAKIB, ISRAEL February 14** — A massive police force, armed to the teeth and dressed for battle, savagely attacked the residents of the unrecognized Bedouin-Arab village of Al-Arakib. The villagers' homes have been brutally demolished no less than 16 (!) times since July 2010. They have once again been stranded without shelter in the middle of the desert as their improvised shanties were demolished.

Many of the village's men were detained, but the women and children kept fighting and tried to block the bulldozers' way. The barbar-

ic cops then assaulted them with tear-gas, batons and rubber bullets, wounding at least two women and one child. The police refused to allow the wounded kid to be evacuated for hours.

The goal of this fascist police brutality is to force the villagers to surrender their land to the Israeli state, despite the fact that it is the villagers' ancestral land and that they hold title over it. As a first stage, the Zionist JNF (Jewish National Fund) intends to plant trees over the village's ruins in order to prevent the villagers' return to them. As a second stage, however, they plan to build a new town — called Hiran — over Al-Arakib's ruins. Residence in Hiran would be restricted to well-off religious Jews only.

But there is more than just the fascist Israeli government and the ultra-nationalist JNF

behind this racist land-grab. Ronald Lauder, a NYC-based billionaire, the heir to the Estee Lauder financial empire, and a major donor to the JNF, is the real-estate tycoon who intends to reap a fortune out of Hiran's construction.

This is not an isolated incident; big U.S. capital is behind some of the worst brutalities of the Israeli apartheid regime. For example, the Miami-based mogul Irving Moskowitz has used his influence to have Israeli cops sent to throw Palestinian-Arab families out of their homes so that he could build fancy apartment buildings on the ruins. This has occurred in Issawiye, Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan (all neighborhoods in East Jerusalem.) Local Israeli bosses profit greatly from Israeli fascism as well, reaping a fortune from landgrabs, colonial settlement construction and the "security" industry.

The only answer we, the international working class, must have is to unite and fight back. The Israeli cops might have guns, clubs, tear gas and rubber bullets; Irving Moskowitz and Ronald Lauder might have billions of dollars; but we have the masses.

The working class produces all value. If we fight back as a united force, we will be able to defeat the capitalists and their fascist servants in all countries. But as long as capitalism exists, racism and fascism will exist as well. Therefore, the only way to get rid of them is to overthrow the rotten capitalist system with a communist revolution. This will give power to the working class — in other words, establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat! ☺

## Building International PLP in Latin America

Twenty-five comrades from several countries participated in a Party conference in a Latin American country recently. Reports were given on the history of Progressive Labor Party, the current world situation, and the growth of fascism. We also discussed the different struggles we are engaged in worldwide, fighting the bosses' attacks on education, in the workplace and on the environment.

More important, we discussed how vital it is to continue our fight to build Progressive Labor Party as the revolutionary communist organization of the masses. In all areas where we exist the Party is growing! It was inspiring to see men and women, young and more-experienced, black, Latino, Asian and white working together to figure out how to build the Party.

We shared specific strategies on how to distribute CHALLENGE, hand out leaflets, and participate in marches and rallies under fascist conditions. For many of us being found with more than one piece of communist literature could mean arrest, torture and even death. The growth of our Party means the coming destruction of capitalism.

The bosses take us very seriously and we must do the same.

Besides sharing important ideas, we also spent time getting to know each other better. We ate wonderful food; we did a bit of sightseeing and went out dancing. Relaxing together helped us deepen relationships and develop the trust we need to fight the attacks the bosses continue to launch on our class. This solidarity will help us build a strong international organization that will one day smash the bosses' racist system and replace it with communism, a system run by workers for the needs of workers!

PLP International Committee



## Colombia Reader Challenges Capitalists' Traps

I keep up ideological debates about the need to have a revolution to end this racist system of social inequality with five of my coworkers, some of my family members and many friends. Some say that communism failed and though it did many good things, it also made many mistakes and committed atrocities like capitalism did. They view this as replacing one unjust system with another unjust system.

Capitalists alienate the workers by feeding these kinds of misconceptions in order to justify their crimes. They trap people into thinking that workers can survive under this putrid system by simply putting aside class "grudges" and competing to "achieve a better living standard." Opportunistic and individualistic actions never helped the working class.

Faced by these diversions, I strive to expose the capitalist lies and to show that communism is a necessity in life which we must fight for. The revolutionary PLP needs to lead the workers, while being aware of the past movements' mistakes.

A friend says that PLP exaggerates, blaming capitalism for everything — winter and its ef-

fects, unemployment, war, climate change, death of miners, child malnutrition, etc. I explain, for example, that the winter wouldn't be a problem if the working class could use existent appropriate places to live — something impossible under capitalism because of private property. I struggle to expose capitalist lies with the help of CHALLENGE. With PLP, we can win people to see that another world is possible, but only if we are all united in our revolutionary Party to defend our class needs.

Nationalism, religion, voting, and ignorance are all ingredients that alienate the proletariat. PLP, with the tools of dialectical materialism, must doubly prepare every day to unite workers to get rid of this deceptive capitalist system.

A comrade from Colombia



# Wisconsin Workers' Class War

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the struggle.

While the workers rightly resist the bosses' assault, they unfortunately fall into the trap laid by their union misleaders who say we must rely on the Democrats to "fight the Republican onslaught." These labor fakers have already agreed to cut pensions and benefits when actually workers should be fighting to maintain and raise them as food and gas prices skyrocket.

The Democrats have brought us Obama who has appointed all the bankers who helped create the economic crisis to run the economy. That's like allowing the fox to guard the chicken coop. While the Republicans want to smash the unions altogether, the Democrats think the working class can more easily be controlled by using the union "leaders" to divert workers' militancy into voting for them.

Well, the Democrats won the 2006 and 2008 elections, and look where that brought us. This is the old shell game, with the G.O.P. playing "bad cop" and the Democrats playing "good cop." They both represent different sections of the same ruling class which owns and runs the country.

The Governor claims he has to cut state workers' wages and benefits and destroy their unions in order to "solve" the state budget "deficit" of \$137 million. In serving the capitalist class (as do all politicians), Walker buries the fact that the entire "deficit" was caused by Wall Street's bankers who created the real estate bubble that crashed the economy in the first place, and which reduced government revenues, now labeled a "deficit."

The capitalists' drive for maximum profits grows out of their need to compete against each other to stay afloat. It is inherent in capitalism and

will press the bosses to push the workers against the wall with wage and budget cuts and mass racist layoffs. PLP says, "Make the bosses take the losses!"

The rulers, led by Obama, say the economic crisis can only be "solved" by everyone "sharing the sacrifice." This "sharing" has Wall Street's biggest investment house, Goldman Sachs, issuing its brokers \$16 billion in bonuses while 33 million U.S. workers — and hundreds of millions worldwide — walk the streets jobless. Their record profits are a result of stealing most of the value produced by the working class without whose labor society could not function.

Meanwhile, the bosses' media tells us government workers are the cause of their banker-created "deficit." They try to divide them from the millions of private-sector workers who are told that the government workers are "getting fat" off the backs of the rest of the working class.

But instead of forcing government workers "down to the level of non-government workers" — a difference which is a statistical fraud — workers must unite to fight for all workers to resist the attack on our living standards and take back what the bosses are stealing from our entire class.

This ruling class divide-and-conquer tactic must be exposed. It was the solidarity of the working class in the Great Depression during which a mass movement of the employed and unemployed, led by communists, organized the industrial unions, won the 8-hour day, unemployment insurance and Social Security. And in fact, it was that mass class struggle in which the workers fought in the streets against the bosses' state apparatus — the police, the National Guard, the Army and the courts — that created what the bosses label "the American standard of living."

Unfortunately those same communists who led that struggle fell prey to the idea of supporting the "liberal" Democrats who posed as the "lesser evil" against the "reactionary" Republicans.

PLP says we must unite our class in militant struggle against the entire ruling class, represented by their servants among the Dem-

ocrats and Republicans. We must fight not for the crumbs they dole out to us — which they then take back every chance they get — but fight to destroy their entire profit system, the cause of all workers' misery.

PLers must immerse ourselves in all these class struggles, including organizing and leading them — which we are doing in many areas — and turn them into "schools for communism": using them as opportunities to win workers to the understanding that only a communist-led workers' revolution will solve the problems created by capitalism. Building the PLP in these class wars is the road to creating a society run by and for the working class. ☺

## To Wisconsin Workers

The day of the liberation of the working class draws nearer with giant steps, and that is the reason these days now feel so terribly sad. Students of the working class, just like unions and teachers, see their rights too trampled by the murderous bourgeois and their state.

At the Faculty of Ethnology [a branch of UEH, the State University of Haiti], a ten-day hunger strike by five students has clearly shown how these vampires care not a whit for human life but rather only for capital and power.

We in Haiti, mindful of the longing for liberation of our class in the perilous situation of being exploited more than ever, offer you our support and stand by your side in the struggle. We have everything to win in winning our freedom, and gaining back all that they have wrenched from us by force. Victory is ours today; more united than ever we must defy the arms and bombs of the exploiters.

Let us forge ahead with international solidarity! Students, teachers, unionists, workers of the whole world. The despair sown on all sides must be transformed into a good thing — a source of motivation in the struggle for the end of the cruel system of war against humanity for the profit of capital.

Together, students, teachers, unionists of the entire world, we will wipe away all barriers.

GREPS (Group for the Study of Social Problems, GREPS01@yahoo.fr)

Faculty of Ethnology, State University of Haiti

Port-au-Prince, February 26, 2011



Sign in Tahrir Square saying 'Egypt Supports Wisconsin Workers - One World, One Pain.'

# N. Africa-Mid East-Asia Revolt

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"Concrete response" means "invasion." Two main groups seek to benefit from Saudi regime change: swelling ranks of unemployed youth and those capitalists not part of Saudi's royal family, shut out of the fabulously lucrative oil racket. Osama bin Laden, a member of the latter, has united elements of both into the anti-U.S. al Qaeda.

Interestingly, Saudi's ruling king, fearing an uprising, and to calm oil interests, just allotted \$36 billion for reforms in his kingdom. But rather than "calming" the situation, those oil interests see his concerns as evidence of a further threat to the region and can very well provoke even more oil price hikes.

## Top U.S. Warlord Visits Big Oil States and U.S. Bases

To hammer home the U.S. invasion vow, Admiral Mike Mullen, the U.S.'s top military chief, recently visited Kuwait on the pretense of commemorating the 20th anniversary of Desert Storm. In 1991, a U.S.-led coalition of 750,000 soldiers ousted Iraqi invaders from Kuwait. But the display of U.S. and allied firepower demonstrates Obama's promise of a repeat performance to defend Saudi Arabia.

Covering the February 26 celebration, Stars and Stripes, the U.S. brass's mouthpiece for GIs gushed:

"Tanks, troops, armored vehicles, helicopters and barrel-rolling [combat maneuver to elude adversaries] fighter jets...passed in formation be-

fore Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen and other dignitaries including Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs in 1991, and Spain's King Juan Carlos. It was a spectacle rarely seen in the world today. Saudi, Kuwaiti, French, British, and other troops joined the relatively small contingent of roughly 175 Americans thundering down the road."

Saudi Arabia's participation indicated it maybe next in line for potential U.S. invasion.

Powell's presence signaled the future use of his "overwhelming force Doctrine." The Spanish, French and British presence demonstrates that Obama, more like Bush, Sr. than Bush, Jr., understands the U.S. need for broad military coalitions.

Mullen landed in Kuwait after a five-day Gulf tour of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Djibouti and Bahrain. These seven states either produce vast amounts of oil or house major U.S. military bases that defend the U.S. strategic stranglehold on its distribution. A Mullen spokesman reassured Saudi king Abdullah that Obama intends to keep him on his throne: "The aim of the 1991 Gulf War was not to democratize Kuwait." (Agence French Press, 2/25)

But where would U.S. rulers find the hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of troops needed for a Saudi invasion that might very well draw in Iran? Restoring the draft in present circumstances remains unthinkable. Gary Hart, a leading imperialist strategist, thinks the solution for U.S. imperialists lies in tying the liberal bosses' side of the fight over workers' rights now centered in Wisconsin to

a patriotic movement that would back U.S. rulers' war plans. (see box page 2)

Hart was co-chairman of Clinton's 1999 Hart-Rudman Commission that drew up blueprints for a centralized U.S. police state. However, this presents them with a contradiction: on the one hand, they fear the consequences of a terrorist attack, but also would hope, as Hart figures, to use it to galvanize mass U.S. support for a Saudi invasion, just as it did for the eventual invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. The latter war is now the longest in U.S. history.

## Opportunities to Build the PLP

The uprisings and U.S. rulers' reactions to them offer many valuable political lessons, about which we will write in coming issues. But for now we point to the first and foremost: Don't trust the liberal bosses.

Meanwhile, PLP members and friends must back solidarity with — participate in — any rising working-class struggles, to be in position to guide them towards the goal of workers' power and away from the liberals' dead-end war aims. Recent anti-government working-class resistance to ruling-class attacks, both in the U.S. and abroad, show that politics are increasingly motivating workers. This can be advanced to demonstrate the need for a communist party, the PLP to play a central role in the immediate period. ☺

# Hezbollah Boss A Compromise Choice As: Imperialists Scheme to Oppress Lebanon's Workers

**BEIRUT, LEBANON, February 15** — Most of the bourgeois parties representing various religious sects and nationalities here now agree to establishing a Hezbollah-led government that would cause a substantial change in the inter-imperialist relations and balance of power in the region. The pro-U.S. factions in the Lebanese ruling class are weakening, partially because of Hezbollah's armed guerrilla defeat of Israel in the 2006 war.

Hezbollah's reconstruction project in Lebanon after that war made it popular among wide sections of the working class, mostly Shiites. The workers view this project as a "pro-people" initiative, contrary to the previous government's policy of cuts, privatizations and rising prices for basic goods.

After the 2006 war, Hezbollah staged mass street demonstrations but refrained from taking power because it was not organized well enough to do so. Playing the "Hard-Line Opposition" role served it better politically. It's likely that Hezbollah's leaders were influenced by their bosses in Iran and Syria, and their rising imperialist masters in Beijing and Moscow, not to upset the inter-imperialist balance of power in the region, but rather to preserve the geo-political status quo.

The Iranian and Syrian regimes would like stable trade relations with the U.S. Hezbollah's "anti-imperialist" politics maintain a "peaceful co-existence" policy towards U.S. bosses while leaning on the rising imperialist powers.

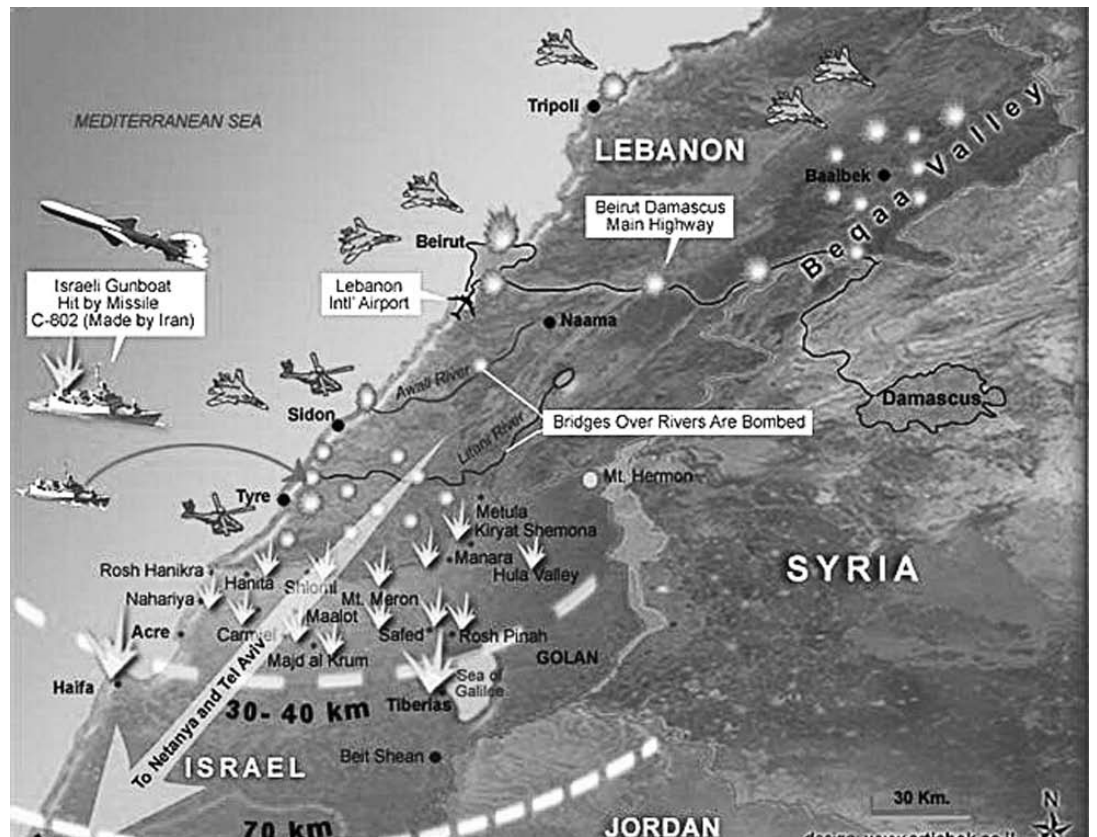
The victory of the pro-U.S. camp in the Lebanese ruling class in the recent elections was largely due to U.S. intervention in the elections, as well as the presence of European military forces (especially Italian and French) in Lebanon after the cease-fire at the end of the 2006 war.

Western imperialists in general, and particularly the U.S., have less resources to support their servants in the local ruling class, allowing rival imperialists to increase their influence in the region through the Iranian and Syrian regimes. Hezbollah in Lebanon, and, to a lesser degree, Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, represent Chinese and Russian imperialism. Similarly, the Israeli Zionist capitalists, engaged in colonial robbery in the region, serve U.S. imperialism which funds and arms them. All these bosses are united in their oppression of Middle Eastern workers.

Lebanon is entering a crisis similar to that which preceded the civil war of the late 1970s as its ruling class seems more divided than ever. The U.S. and the other Western powers are finding it difficult to stabilize Lebanon's bourgeois regime and capitalist economy due to the weak U.S. economy, as well as to the failure in 2006 by Israel to land a "finishing blow" on Hezbollah. This has further weakened the U.S. bosses' grip on the region.

There is now more freedom of action for political forces that lean on the parts of the national bourgeoisie connected to the Iran-Syria bloc, and, by proxy, to the Chinese and Russian bosses. Hezbollah's military might serves this imperialist bloc as a whip to discipline the Lebanese bourgeoisie.

This is why the capitalist Najib Mikati has been nominated to become Lebanon's prime minister. Mekati has huge investments in regions under the influence of China and Russia



Israeli bombs killed thousands of workers in Lebanon in the 2006 invasion.

(including several African countries, notably South Africa), but also owns stock in western multi-national corporations in such countries as France. His role is to mediate between the imperialist interests, suppress and weaken the active resistance by Lebanon's working class, trying to block any potential revolutionary situation.

Without communist leadership, Lebanon's

working class often is split along religious and ethnic lines, serving various bourgeois camps. The workers, already active on the streets, must expand their struggle and transcend the national and sectarian divisions while building a conscious communist leadership to lead their class to take the future into its own hands.✪

## Haiti: Hunger Strike Teaches Mass Protest Is Way to Go

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, February 26** — Five student militants from GREPS (Group for Reflection on Social Problems) went on a hunger strike for ten days after administrators at the Faculty of Ethnology of the State University of Haiti continued to ignore their demands for a functioning campus with a full program of courses, a library, and a cafeteria. The administration still made no response to these basic demands. The hunger strikers were hospitalized for observation, and two are still there. "I have to tell you that so far nothing has been done. For more than a year there have effectively been no courses...It seems there is no future for Haitian youth any more," wrote a GREPS leader.

But the students, who are also demanding the return of expelled militant comrades, are holding firm. They are organizing a general popular assembly of students, teachers, and workers on March 10, and marches and other protests after that date. They drew this lesson from the non-response to their hunger strike: "It has clearly shown how these vampires care not a whit for human life but rather only for capital and power."

That comment was from a fierce message of international solidarity which the students

in Haiti wrote to the university Teaching Assistants and other workers occupying the Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin, linking the two struggles. (See Box, page 4)

U.S. supporters, including PLP'ers organized a support campaign. They were able to send fifty-three online signatures and twenty-five individual letters to the university Rectorate before the hunger strike ended. Readers should collect more signatures on the petition at [www.ipetitions.com/petition/haiti-university-student-hunger-strike/](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/haiti-university-student-hunger-strike/). It is still being circulated at several schools and campuses and on many lists.

Sometimes the effect of international solidarity is cumulative, rather than immediate. A petition like this, brought to campuses and schools like Bronx Community College, where 100 students attended a forum called "Youth Movement Rising," shows that students in Haiti are not the passive victims the media portrays but are an integral part of that rising movement, which has much to contribute to a workers' revolution.✪

# LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in concise letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses around the world.

## Israeli Rulers Ape U.S. Imperialist Foreign Policy

The U.S. has vetoed the UN resolution, proposed by the Palestinian Authority, to condemn Israel's actions against the Palestinian people since they have refused to soften their proposed resolution. This veto is a criminal act. There are many parallel lines between Netanyahu's bloody regime and the Obama administration, which spoke about "change," but changed nothing from the Bush days.

True, Obama has pulled out some of the U.S. troops from Iraq, after they've caused much carnage. But what about Afghanistan? Is it not an imperialist occupation? What about the notorious Guantanamo concentration camp? What about the boycott of Cuba?

The same goes for Israel. The Shin-Beit use of torture apes the barbaric acts done in Guantanamo. Israel also occupies countries — in fact, it is itself, a colonial occupation of Palestine — just like the U.S. occupies Afghanistan. But just like in Iraq and Afghanistan, they will never be able to eradicate the resistance against this occupation! Israel condemns any organization that calls for a boycott of Israeli products, but says nothing about the U.S. boycott of Cuba!

If Israel would like to see its POW, Gilad Shalit, who is held by Hamas, ever released, it must likewise release Palestinian political prisoners from its many jails. But it seems that Netanyahu doesn't really care about human lives on either side!

These two capitalist countries, the U.S. and Israel, have diabolical policies against other nations.

*A Housekeeping Worker from Tel-Aviv*

## Haiti Solidarity Efforts Inspire Retirees

At a recent union retiree meeting, a NYC student activist reported about her participation in efforts to support the working class in Haiti. She helped it rebuild after the effects of natural disasters and the disasters resulting from colonial and imperialist rule of Haiti. About twenty five long-time activists in the labor movement were excited by the efforts in setting up medical clinics, computer and English skills being directly provided to those in need, and work with trade union and student activists.

She told of the mind-boggling unemployment, and government and NGO corruption evident in Haiti. After a question-and-answer session in which many retirees shared their knowledge of the history and politics of Haiti's development, \$95.00 was collected to help volunteers return to Haiti to continue their solidarity work.

*Retired Red Shop Steward*

## Fascist Zionists Will Pay Dearly for Atrocities!

We are writing after seven pogroms against the Bedouin town of Al-Araqib in southern Palestine, pogroms which were carried out and continue to be carried out in other parts of Palestine by the Zionist conquerors. We are writing also because of the war-mongering policies of the Israeli-Zionist politicians, which are written with our blood. We shall remember the:

- Nakba (the Palestinian national disaster of 1948) committed by the Zionist thugs who are like Amaleq [a Biblical tribe of marauders used in Jewish discourse as an example of violent evil

–Ed.];

- Deportation, the butchery, the local versions of Krystallnacht (Nazi pogroms against Jews);
- Demolition of villages and houses then and now (Al-Araqib, Shiekh Jarrah, Dir Yassin and many other villages);
- Destruction of crops, the blockades and the arrests;
- Discrimination against the "weak;"
- Poverty and distress of both Jewish and Palestinian workers;
- Death industry [the Israeli military industry –Ed.];

We will remember their infamy forever! The heirs and continuers of the Nazis — they will end like Hitler!

1933: the establishment of the Third Reich parallels the establishment of the Third (Jewish) National home in 1948.

1945: the fall of the Third Reich will be paralleled by the fall of the Zionists later.

Like the Third Reich, the Third National Home will also be destroyed. We won't forget, we won't forgive and we won't stand down!

The Zionists are like the Nazis, except for the fact that the Zionists haven't (yet) built concentration camps and gas chambers and haven't (yet) made soap from human fat. We must take revenge against the Zionists who demolish homes where women and children live, and spill the clean blood of innocents! They should pay dearly for this!

*Workers in Tel-Aviv*

## Blizzard Articles Good, But What About Communism?

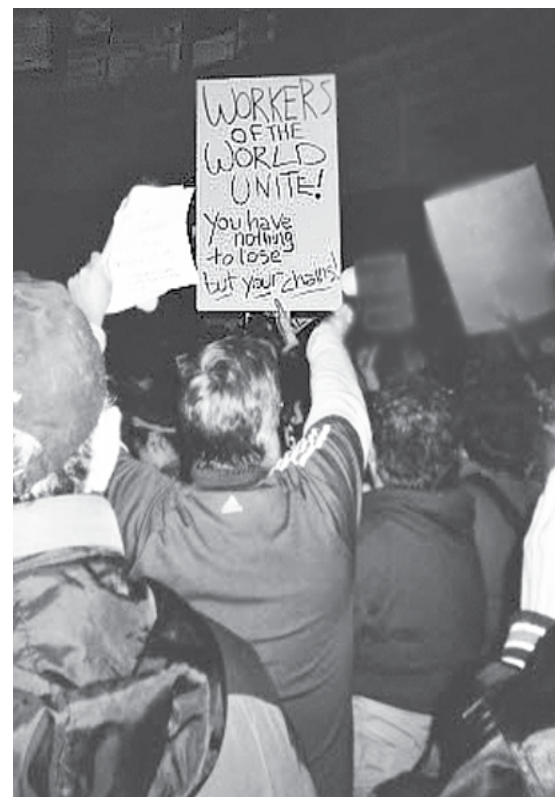
I am an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) worker and I liked the recent series of articles in CHALLENGE about the blizzard in New York City. The story about what really happened during the blizzard was finally told. The mainstream media and Bloomberg lied to save their butts.

I recently had a conversation with some people, one of whom asked "why, while we were stuck the first night of the blizzard, were some EMTs (technicians) and Paramedics just sleeping in their ambulances instead of doing something?" So I started yelling at them! Do what? It was during an ongoing blizzard, and we didn't have any help. Then Bloomberg comes on TV and blames EMS for the deaths during the blizzard. People have no idea what we do or what we go through.

However, neither article in CHALLENGE talked about what a blizzard would be like under "communism." How would it be different? Here under capitalism, if the Sanitation plows had been out on the streets, it would've been a completely different story. I understand the article's position, but it should've explained what the differences would've been under communism throughout the entire article, instead of dropping the pitch at the end. It could've also given some examples of what past communists did.

I read "OUR FIGHT" in CHALLENGE and some points I agree with and some I don't, but it's clear that PLP is for the common good.

*New Reader*



Protest in Wisconsin

## 'Beat It, You Dumb Bastard!'



The French teacher in Tahrir square with his sign « casse-toi, pauvre con » which translates as "beat it, you dumb bastard."

**PARIS, February 26** — Today, there may well be more freedom of speech in Egypt than in France. On Feb. 1, a teacher at the French lycée (high school) in Cairo joined the protesters in Tahrir square, brandishing a sign demanding that Mubarak go.

Within four days the teacher was ordered to appear at the French embassy, bawled out, suspended, and put on a plane to France, where an "official warning" — a permanent black mark — was added to his personnel file.

His crime? Inviting Mubarak to leave in exactly the same terms with which French President Nicolas Sarkozy insulted a man who refused to shake hands with him, three years ago. "Beat it, you dumb bastard."

As French civil servants, teachers must observe professional discretion and not use vulgar language. There are, however two weights and two measures, since Sarkozy is also a civil servant and has never been reprimanded for vulgarity.

The incident is an illustration of the way freedom of speech is shrinking in France. On Feb. 7, the "LOPPSI 2" law was adopted, a grab-bag of repressive measures which Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux described as "a permanent, general and total mobilization" that is necessary "to protect the French." ☹

(Full story next issue)

# Shades of Hitler: The Third Reich Rises Again

In an address to members of the Christian Democratic Union Party (CDU) on October 17th, 2010, German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared that the German "experiment" in multiculturalism had "utterly failed." She went on to state that non-Germans, particularly Arabs and Muslims, were incapable of "living side by side" with the German people.<sup>1</sup> This came only two months after the release of German central banker Thilo Sarrazin's racist book *Germany Abolishes Itself*, in which Sarrazin argues that immigrants are lowering German IQs.<sup>2</sup>

That Merkel and Sarrazin would so openly parrot the views of the Nazi regime is indicative of a growing trend in Germany. A study released days before Merkel's speech showed that 13% of Germans would welcome a "fuehrer" to run the country with a "firm hand." Over a third felt the country is "overrun by foreigners"; 60% would "restrict the practice of Islam"; and 17% think Jews have too much influence.<sup>3</sup> This anti-Semitism was repeated by Sarrazin who stated that all Jews share a unique genetic heritage and therefore represent a single "race" separate from European whites.<sup>4</sup>

The popular pseudo-leftist hipster philosopher Slavoj Zizek chalked up this open fascism in Germany to an "excess of anti-capitalism" in Europe, but his primitive analysis could not be further from the truth.<sup>5</sup>

When Germany was divided after the Second World War, the Nazi regime, at the will of the U.S. and Britain, retained firm control of West Germany (FDR) while a Soviet-style socialist bulwark against fascism was built in East Germany. The first West German President, Konrad Adenauer, had close associations with and was funded by Nazi war crimi-

nal Friedrich Flick. Shortly after being elected he granted amnesty to 792,176 Nazi war criminals.

Adenauer's chief of staff was Hans Globke a top official in the Nazi Party who played a direct role in the Holocaust. The first chief of the FDR Foreign Office was Herbert Blankenhorn a former Nazi propagandist and member of the SS. Adolf Heusinger was chief of the Operations Division of the Nazi army and oversaw war planning for Hitler. Naturally he was made the top commander of the illegally-formed West German military in 1957.<sup>6</sup>

While prominent Nazis filled top positions the lower ranks were replete with Nazis who made up two thirds of the foreign services and military as well as much of the West German police infrastructure.

By contrast the East German government was made up of anti-fascist fighters and an entire state culture was built around the idea of anti-fascism. It should come as no surprise then that at the time of the FDR annexation of East Germany (1989-91) West Germans were four times as likely as East Germans to describe themselves as openly anti-Semitic.<sup>7</sup>

Since the annexation of East Germany that part of the country has been inundated with fascist literature while schools have adopted the pro-fascist revisionist history taught by such neo-Nazi West German intellectuals as Ernst Nolte. Earlier this year 6,400 neo-Nazis, primarily from West Germany, flooded the East German city of Dresden in an attempt to hold a pro-Nazi rally. Then 5,700 German police were brought in to assist the Nazis assault on the city. After a heroic effort by the 15,000 anti-racists, who formed a human barricade to block their entry, both the racist police and the

Nazis they protected were forced to turn back.<sup>8</sup>

Fascism is an aspect of capitalism, whether in the form of jack-booted Nazi thugs or smiling politicians who sign the orders to militarize borders, indefinitely imprison Muslim and Arab men or slaughter innocent Afghans and Pakistanis. Racism, sexism, patriotism and nationalism are absolutely required by a system that is always looking to squeeze more and more profit from workers' labor. Just as true is that communists have always and will always fight fascism in all of its forms. In short then, the problem is not an "excess of anti-capitalism" in Germany, but a severe shortage of communism.☪

1. The Guardian, "Angela Merkel: German Multiculturalism has 'Utterly Failed,'" 10/17/10.

2. Christian Science Monitor, "Why 13 percent of Germans Would Welcome a 'Fuhrer,'" 10/15/10.

3. Ibid.

4. Washington Post, "German Politician Stirs Controversy with His Inflammatory Views on Muslims and Jews," 8/30/10.

5. Democracy Now, "Slavoj Zizek: Far Right and Anti-Immigrant Politicians on the Rise in Europe," 10/18/10.

6. See Norbert Frei, "Adenauer's Germany and the Nazi Past: The Politics of Amnesty and Amnesia," The New Republic, 3/10/03; Ronald Smelser and Edward Davies, *The Myth of the Eastern Front: The Nazi-Soviet War in American Popular Culture*; Glen Yeadon and John Hawkins, *The Nazi Hydra in America*;

7. Patty Lee Parmalee, "Learning to Live with Capitalism in East Berlin," Z Magazine, Vol. 5 No. 7-8, July/August 1992.

8. Victor Grossman, ZNet, "Neo Nazis in Germany, or Deja Vu?" 9/4/07; Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review, "Thousands Prevent Neo-Nazi Rally in Dresden," 2/14/10.

## 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

### Thousands protest Panama mining

**GW, 2/25** — Demonstrations are spreading across Panama demanding an end to plans to reform mining laws in order to attract foreign investors. Thousands of indigenous people this month blocked the Pan-American highway at San Félix, 400km west of Panama City.

Some had walked for several days from villages in the indigenous Ng be-Buglé region, which has large copper reserves....

Opponents, a broad coalition of indigenous peoples, environmental organizations and trade unions...see it as a government plan to "flog our mineral riches to the multinationals" while jeopardizing the environment and the rights of indigenous peoples.

### U.S. grabbed Haiti in 1915, still in

**GW, 2/18** — In 1915, U.S. Marines invaded Haiti, occupying it until 1934. U.S. officials rewrote the constitution, and when the Haitian national assembly refused to ratify it, they dissolved the assembly. They held a referendum in which about 5% of the electorate voted and approved the new constitution, which conveniently allowed foreigners to own land. The situation today is remarkably similar — everyone knows that Washington calls the shots.

### Pills: a rising threat to U.S. troops

**NYT, 2/13** — After a decade of treating thousands of wounded troops, the military's medical system is awash in prescription drugs — and the results have sometimes been deadly.

By some estimates, well over 300,000 troops have returned from Iraq or Afghanistan with P.T.S.D., depression, traumatic brain injury, or some combination of those. The Pentagon has looked to

pharmacology to treat those complex problems, following the lead of civilian medicine. As a result, psychiatric drugs have been used more widely across the military than in any previous war.

But those medications, along with narcotic painkillers, are being increasingly linked to a rising tide of other problems, among them drug dependency, suicide and fatal accidents — sometimes from the interactions of the drugs themselves.

### Wallace Shawn saw the Red light

**Harvard Magazine, March** — During three years in the 1980s that included travel to Central America, [Actor-writer Wallace] Shawn came to espouse left-wing politics: specifically, an analysis of power, economics, and institutions....

"There was a point when I crossed over,...becoming less in the Arthur Schlesinger Jr. category and more in the Noam Chomsky category," Shawn says. "It had to do with understanding that I and the people I knew were actually involved in the story. There are certain writers who specialize in saying, 'Oh, my God, the terrible things they do to each other in South America! It's absolutely shocking!' At a certain point I was able to face the fact that — Wow, it was the U.S. Army who did that, and: a) it was my taxes that paid for them to do it; and b) they did it to preserve the status quo in which I am leading a very pleasant life. These things are happening every day because of me and my friends, and we're not doing anything about it. You have murder and torture going on — so, what does that make us?"

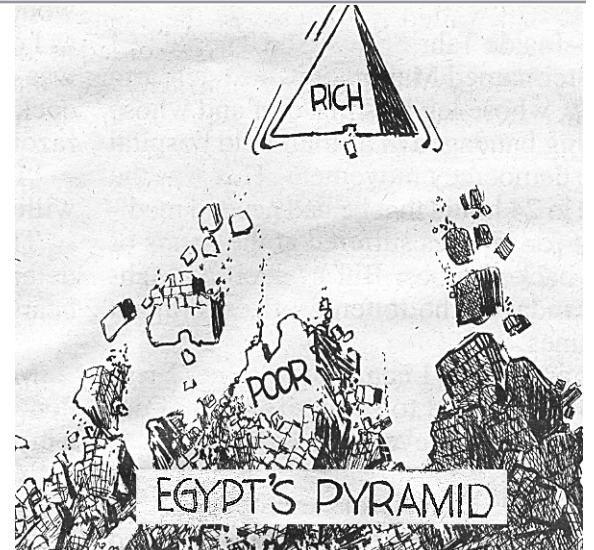
"I happen to believe that the American elite has been a marauding monstrosity on the world scene in my lifetime," Shawn continues. It has been unimaginably brutal in trying to preserve the status quo and unimaginably greedy in trying to bring the world's resources onto our continent....

Harvard's role is mostly to service and to perpetuate and to create that elite.

### 20-yr. stalling as tribes sue Chevron

**NYT, 2/15** — A judge in a tiny courtroom in the Ecuadorean Amazon ruled Monday that the oil giant Chevron was responsible for polluting remote tracts of the Ecuadorean jungle and ordered the company to pay more than \$9 billion in damages, one of the largest environmental awards ever.

The decision by Judge Nicolás Zambrano in



Lago Agrio, a town founded as an oil camp in the 1960s, immediately opened a contentious new stage of appeals in a legal battle that has dragged on in courts in Ecuador and the United States for 17 years, pitting forest tribes and villagers against one of the largest American corporations....

Both sides said they would appeal the ruling, setting the stage for months and potentially years more of legal wrangling.

### Shout of "Get Out!" now "No Jobs!"

**NYT, 2/14** — A month after Tunisians toppled their authoritarian president, sending shock waves across the Arab world, many are discovering that may have been the easy part....

A fragile caretaker government...faces a crush of immediate demands for jobs, economic improvement and security....

The same groups of young people who last month swarmed the streets shouting, "Get Out!" gathered Saturday evening with a new chant: "Unemployed!"

"The unemployed gained nothing from the revolution...We're still waiting. We are waiting for work"....

The...unemployment rate is...as high as 30 percent in the impoverished and restive hinterland, where the upheaval began....

Last week the government called up military reservists to help maintain order.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

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# Bosses Use Black History Month to Hide Racist Super-Exploitation, Heroic Mass Struggles

Black History Month (BHM), has just ended and after three centuries of racist brutality and exploitation, the only thing the rulers and their media offer us to highlight black workers history is extolling a few black men and women of fame and fortune and portraying the struggle and leadership of black workers in the U.S as passive and non-violent.

Oprah Winfrey, presidential candidate Barack Obama and countless others were trotted out to convince us that the system works, allowing individuals to overcome racism. In reality, the system means black workers suffer double unemployment rates, one-third less family income and infant-mortality rates rivaling those of the world's poorest countries.

BHM is part of the rulers' body of ideology intended to convince black workers to ignore the super-exploitation millions suffer from all bosses and give their loyalty to bosses of their own "race," rather than uniting with all workers, Latino, Asian and white, in loyalty to their class. Loyalty to their "own" bosses, who are part of the capitalist system creating all this exploitation, then misleads them into patriotically supporting the big bosses' wars.

## Bosses Bury History of Communist Anti-Racist Leadership

During BHM, the bosses cannot afford to teach the real history of mass struggles against slavery, united black and white working-class struggles against racism and capitalist exploitation, or how communists participated in and led many of these heroic actions. Extraordinary singer and actor Paul Robeson may be mentioned, but not his lifetime dedication to the working class and communism. No one will quote his statement that visiting the then-socialist Soviet Union was the first time in his life he felt free of racism.

There will be no allusion to communist historian Herbert Aptheker debunking over 100 years of ruling-class racist academic lies about slaves "happy" to be exploited by their "benevolent" plantation masters. Aptheker documented over 400 organized slave revolts, several supported by white workers, north and south.

Lincoln will be said to have "freed" the slaves without discussion of Harriet Tubman and John Brown organizing an integrated armed band to raid Harper's Ferry to inspire slave revolts. While the raid caused frightened southern slave-holders to secede, 180,000 runaway slaves joined the Union Army to fight for freedom for all slaves.

BHM will not notice the 25,000 black and white workers in 1892 New Orleans who overcame segregated local unions and united in an eleven-day general strike. Bosses counter-attacked with racist propaganda, ruling-class-led racist riots and a U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing segregation (Homer Plessy, of Plessy vs. Ferguson, was fighting to desegregate New Orleans streetcars). Nevertheless, in 1907, white workers overcame lifetime racist indoctrination to follow the lead of black workers in a mass strike, shutting down the entire New Orleans port and winning many of their reform demands.

In the 1930s, black workers played a crucial role in the communist-led organization of mass, integrated industrial unions (in opposition to the racist, segregated craft unions). Communists provided most of the leadership for many other anti-racist activities such as the world-wide protests against the phony rape frame-up of black youths in Scottsboro, Alabama, that exposed the racist Jim Crow system.

## Black Workers' Armed Struggle

Black workers' militant and sometimes armed struggle won the victories that are credited to Martin Luther King. In 1964, the Louisiana-based Deacons for Defense emerged as an armed or-



Rebels confront troops in 1967 Newark Uprising

ganization to defend non-violent civil rights workers and spread to 23 communities across the south. Their actions helped win integration battles and fight off racist terror from the police, the Ku Klux Klan, and racist white mobs ("The Deacons for Defense," Lance Hill, 2004).

Then, in June 1964, the first mass big-city rebellion erupted in New York City's Harlem when masses of black workers and youth took to the streets to protest a police murder of a black teenager. The PLM poster "Wanted for Murder, Gilligan the Cop" became the symbol of angry protests against racist police brutality. The rebels marched through Harlem's streets, displaying the front page of CHALLENGE as their "flag." PLM (Progressive Labor Movement, forerunner of PLP) was the only organization to support the rebellion — all the reformist black leaders and the "Communist" Party tried to cool the rebels and attacked PLM. The latter was barred from Harlem but defied the ban and held a mass demonstration, which sent several in PLM to jail. This rebellion laid the basis for many to follow. In the 1960s and '70s, the newly-formed PLP supported and participated in black rebellions in Newark and Detroit in 1967.

The Detroit rebellion sparked by police harassment of a party for returning black Vietnam veterans and suppressed by 82nd Airborne troops diverted from Vietnam — led directly to 10,000 jobs in the auto industry for black workers. When King was assassinated in 1968, anti-racist rebellions flared up in hundreds of U.S. cities. These rebellions led to an increase in jobs for blacks, especially in the public sector, although unemployment and underemployment remained (and remains) double for black workers than for white.

In 1975 PLP defeated the racist anti-busing movement in Boston. Since the 1960s PLP has frustrated the growth of racist KKK and Nazi groups (supported by cops and the courts all over the

U.S.) by taking to the streets in demonstrations and physical attacks. Recently, PLP has joined protests against killer cops in Chicago and NYC, bringing communist analysis and militance as an alternative to the silent pacifism of ruling-class agents like Al Sharpton.

From as far back as Karl Marx's statement during the U.S. Civil War that "labor in the white skin can never be free while labor in the black skin is in chains," communists have seen that capitalism cannot survive without the profits from the super-exploitation of black workers. Even though many militant reform struggles have made dents in racist institutions like segregation, the bosses have always been able to use their state power to reverse those advances.

For instance, the Jim Crow prison chain gangs of the 1930s have merely been replaced by today's largest prison population in world history, incarcerating more black youth than are attending college. Lehman Bros.' banking empire began in 1850 as a cotton brokerage house profiting from slavery's exploitation. Prior to Lehman Bros's demise in 2008, it financed the Corrections Corporation of America that profits from the frame-ups and non-violent drug convictions that produce over 500,000 present-day slaves — prison laborers earning as little as 23 cents an hour, who are over 70% black and Latino.

Communists must counter the omissions and distortions of BHM with the militant history of multi-racial working-class struggles against racism. More importantly, we must expose that capitalism and racism always have gone hand-in-hand. The working class needs the multi-racial unity that can only be forged in anti-racist struggles. To defeat racist exploitation we have to use that unity to build a communist movement to overthrow capitalism and its racist outrages.✊

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