

CUNY: No Tuition Hike! Abolish the Board of Trustees!

Last fall the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York voted to raise tuition by 5 percent in the Spring semester of 2011. This raised the cost of attending one of CUNY's four-year colleges to over \$5,000 a year including fees, a prohibitive amount for most working-class families. The Board held a public hearing on 15 November 2010 on the proposed budget and tuition and fee schedule. Students and teachers from around the CUNY system came to the hearing to voice their opposition. The BoT greeted them with a show of police force, and Chancellor Matthew Goldstein walked out on the "hearing" half way through. A week later these capitalist enemies of public education voted the tuition hike, plus raising the Fall 2011 hike to 5 percent. We reprint below the remarks of Kirstine Jungkurth, president of the Internationalist Club at Hunter College, who turned her back on the "Trustees" and instead spoke to the audience at the November 15 hearing.

We are here to say: No tuition hike. Let me make that more precise: *No tuition!* Education is a basic democratic right, but every year they're making it more of an impossible dream. This new 7% hike – combined with additional charges and cuts aimed at grad students, the Black Male Initiative, ethnic studies and other programs – will make it even more dif-

ficult for poor and working-class students to stay in school.

But that's the whole idea – isn't it? The whole *point* of the constant hikes and cuts is to make education more "elite." This goes with the push by the Democrats in the White House and state government plus the Republican billionaire Bloomberg in City Hall to introduce more and more inequality in education. There's a drive to privatize as much as possible to take the "public" out of public ed. So Mayor Bloomberg's choice for new school chancellor seems to have just one qualification: she knows a lot about making big bucks and nothing about schools. Is that supposed to be the model at CUNY? Is the idea to turn it into Walmart U.?

We say: *No way* – and we join with students and young people from Britain to California to Puerto Rico to Mexico to France in saying NO to capitalism's cuts in education and social services. We need to join with transit workers facing cutbacks and layoffs, with immigrants, and the the whole working class which has the power to *shut the city down* in defense of our basic rights.

Today at CUNY, students are dropping out of college or don't apply because they can't afford tuition and the costs of living combined. We say "*No tuition – Open admissions,*" and demand a state paid living stipend. "But what about the economic crisis?" say those who think it's natural and right for those

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Internationalist photo

Supporters of the CUNY Internationalist Clubs, Class Struggle Education Workers and the Internationalist Group call for class mobilization against capitalist attacks on public education at 24 March 2011 protest march from NYC City Hall to Wall Street.

To Defeat Capitalist Attacks on Public Education, You Have to Fight Capitalism

Coalitions with Democrats, No! Class Struggle to Shut NYC Down, Yes!

We reprint below the CUNY Internationalist Clubs leaflet distributed at the March 24 NYC "state of emergency" protest.

Ever since the bank crash and stock market panic of September 2008, working people, students, oppressed communities, the poor and large parts of the middle classes have been under attack. Unemployment quickly shot up to Depression levels and has stayed there, millions were forced out of their homes by foreclosures. While government "stimulus" spending was able to mask some of the worst effects for a time, the deficit financing has run out.

Lately the rulers have conjured up a "fiscal crisis" in order to launch a frontal attack on workers' rights. We saw it in

Greece and France last year, and now we are facing it here. As signs carried by labor supporters in the recent mobilizations in Wisconsin against a vicious union-busting law said: this is *class war*. On top of which the U.S. has just launched yet another *imperialist war* in the Middle East, raining death on Libya in the name of humanitarianism.

We are facing a concerted *capitalist* assault on working people. The criminals who caused the crisis are trying to make their victims pay for it. This affects every one of us, through tuition hikes, increasing class sizes, mounting student debt, day care cuts, skyrocketing medical insurance costs, massive job losses and mass deportations, and now a drive to eliminate collective bargaining altogether.

It is a *bipartisan* attack, by Republicans and Democrats alike.

In New York City, a coalition of 50-plus community, student, labor and left groups has called a "State of Emergency Protest" for Thursday, March 24. Billed as a "Day of Rage Against the Cuts," it includes an afternoon rally at City Hall and a march to Wall Street. We in the Internationalist Clubs at the City University of New York will be there with our signs calling for militant class struggle. But we reject the bourgeois pressure politics represented by the coalition. Here's why:

The March 24 coalition includes Democratic Party politicians and a host of groups linked to them. In fact, the demands of the demo are geared precisely to be acceptable to

liberal Dems. Like the "civil disobedience" called by leaders of the Professional Staff Congress (the CUNY faculty union) in Albany on Wednesday, the demo is essentially a more "militant" form of lobbying. It's all part of the Great Dance that takes place every year as the budget is negotiated.

Students, and millions of others, are certainly in a "state of emergency." Tuition at the City University of New York went up 5 percent in January, and the CUNY Board of Trustees has already authorized another hike for this fall, pending approval in the state legislature. In the last two decades annual tuition (which did not exist from 1848 until 1975) has almost quadrupled, rising

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Hunter College Internationalist Club president Kirstine Jungkurth speaking to the audience at November 15 CUNY Board of Trustees hearing.

No Tuition...

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on the bottom of society to take the hit for the irrationality of the capitalist system. The fact is that *free tuition* existed at New York City's public colleges beginning in 1847 and lasted through wars and financial crises, including the Great Depression. But ever since slavery, oppressed minorities were denied quality and equal education.

In 1969, open admissions was won, allowing many black, Latino, working-class and immigrant students to go to college for the first time. With no tuition (and then relatively low tuition compared to today), and open admissions, CUNY graduated more black and Latino students than any other university in the history of the United States. It's not surprising, therefore, that the ruling class took aim against these gains. It was only in 1976 that tuition was first introduced at CUNY, mainly as part of the drive to roll back open admissions. Since open admissions was ended in 1999 efforts have only escalated to drive us out.

They would rather have us remain disposable workers, struggling to survive off the meager salaries we make as people without a college education. Their idea is that most of us are fit only to flip burgers or sign up for the military to kill and die for colonial conquest. The CUNY Internationalist Clubs were born from the struggle to stop the "anti-immigrant war purge" that was launched in Fall 2001 when the CUNY administration used 9/11 as a pretext for more than doubling tuition for "undocumented" students. Protest and exposure largely succeeded in rolling back that attack, and today we need to stop the drive to price CUNY out of reach of those it was supposedly set up to serve.

Throughout school one of the words we hear most often is "democracy." But who elected the Board of Trustees? It's a body appointed by ruling-class politicians and responsible only to the interests of the wealthy capitalist elite that doesn't think most of us even have the right to be in school. (See "Look Who's Trusteeing at CUNY" in *Revolution* No. 5 [September 2008].) We say: *Abolish the Board of Trustees* and the administration. Students, faculty, and campus workers can democratically run the university. First on our agenda would be doing away with tuition and restoring open admissions. But that points to the need for a very different kind of society, doesn't it? One where education isn't just one more commodity for the enrichment of a few. So a lot of us are waking up to the need to get to the root of the problem. It's a ten-letter word that starts with "c" – *capitalism*. ■

Democrats, No...

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from \$1,350 to \$4,830 at CUNY four-year colleges. This raises the already formidable barriers facing working-class, black, Latino and immigrant students.

The Internationalist Clubs have organized to fight this *class and race purge* of higher education. It's no accident that tuition was introduced the year that CUNY first had a majority of non-white students, the result of the 1969 City College occupation that opened the doors to all NYC high-school graduates. We oppose all tuition hikes and call for *free tuition and open admissions*, as well as for a living stipend so that college education could truly be available to all. We also call for the abolition of the Board of Trustees and instead for student-teacher-

workers control of CUNY.

The March 24 coalition puts forward a laundry list of demands, including: jobs not layoffs; affordable housing; no cuts to social services; no union-busting or privatization; stop school closings, etc. But how does it propose to achieve these goals? It has a three-point program: extend the millionaire's tax, close corporate tax loopholes and bring back the stock transfer tax. In short, their slogan is "Tax the rich." Taxing the wealthy is fine by us, but it won't put a dent in the assault on public education and working people.

For starters, New York State *already has* the fabled "millionaire's tax" on the books. It was voted by the Democratic state legislature in 2009. But that hasn't stopped the capitalist rulers from crying wolf about the supposed "fiscal crisis" (see box, right). Moreover, New York State *already had* a stock transfer tax from 1916 to 1981. These demands are not the least bit radical, having been voted by the perennial Democratic majority in the NY State Assembly.

In an article titled "Outraged New Yorkers Unite March 24" in the *Amsterdam News* (17 March), Ramon Jimenez writes that "The growing coalition realizes that we need revenue-generating proposals to avoid these cuts." (Jimenez ran for NY attorney general, the state's chief prosecutor, on the Freedom Party ticket in last year's election.) Well, actually, not. Fiscal crisis or no, it is not up to the working class to tell the capitalist government how to raise more money. Even if they had more bucks, they wouldn't use it to meet *our* needs.

The March 24 coalition began as a lash-up of several left groups, notably the International Socialist Organization and Workers World Party, plus their various offshoots and CUNY Mobilization Network, an umbrella group of campus reformists. Enlisting a number of education and community groups and several unions, they throw in a couple of minor capitalist "third parties" (the Green Party and Freedom Party) for respectability, and – presto! – you have the formula for a classic "popular front"-style coalition.

Modeled on the antiwar coalitions of the 1970s, such class-collaborationist alliances are designed to be pressure groups on the left flank of the Democrats. For that purpose they invariably feature some Democratic Party pol. In New York City, particularly when it comes to education, a perennial favorite is City Councilman Charles Barron, an early endorser of March 24. Last year, Barron launched the Freedom Party to run for governor. But he always made clear that this did *not* mean a break with the Democrats:

"Asked if his Democratic registration would impede his run on the Freedom Party line, Barron said, 'We are all registered Democrats right now. We are telling the people of New York, you can keep your Democratic Party registration.... I am still a registered Democrat'."
– *Our Time Press*, 21 August 2010

Charles Barron sometimes talks left, but he has *repeatedly voted for layoff budgets*. Amid a big fight between NYC labor unions and Bloomberg, Barron voted for the 2004 budget which included 3,000 layoffs, including many school aides and paraprofessionals. Barron likewise voted for the 2010 budget which included 2,000 layoffs. And the year before, Barron vociferously campaigned for Democrat Obama, today commander in chief of U.S. imperialism and chief executive officer of American capitalism.

Liberal Democrats and labor bureaucrats, joined by most education activists and

What Fiscal Crisis?

So what about that fiscal crisis? Actually, according to the *Gotham Gazette* (March 2011), Mayor Bloomberg is sitting on a cumulative \$3.1 billion *surplus*, including a "draw down" (looting) of \$1.1 billion from the city's Retiree Health Benefits Trust Fund. And while hizzoner is claiming a \$500 million deficit for fiscal year 2011, the NYC budget office is reporting a *surplus* of \$1.9 billion so far in FY 2010, plus \$2.1 billion additional tax revenue over previous projections. In other words, *the NYC budget crisis is totally phony*.

What about New York State? Governor Cuomo says he is facing a \$10 billion shortfall in revenue. He proposes to fill it by cutting education and Medicaid and laying off up to 10,000 state employees. While slashing public school and school construction budgets, funds for semi-privatized charter schools would be *increased*. Yet the state is set to pay \$6.6 billion in debt service to the banks. That's enough to cover the state school aid cuts, canceled subsidies for SUNY's teaching hospitals, and cuts of \$138 million to SUNY and \$37 million to CUNY.

The debt is hardly mentioned in the media. Refusing to pay off the Wall Street bankers, who are wallowing in cash, would infringe on the sacrosanct "rights" of capital, so instead the rights of labor are to be trampled underfoot. And naturally, since they seek to ally with a section of the rulers by putting forward a program of "reasonable" reform, the March 24 coalition maintains a respectful silence about the debt. To take on finance capital would require serious struggle of *class against class*.

union dissidents, pulled out all the stops to elect Barack Obama as a supposed peace candidate and friend of labor. While a few self-proclaimed socialist groups called to vote for this capitalist politician, slicker reformists (ISO, WWP) tried to cash in on Obama's popularity by snuggling up as close as possible without formally endorsing him.

In office, Obama escalated the war in Afghanistan, continued the occupation of Iraq and has now launched the bombing of Libya. Plus he enacted a health "reform" that puts billions more into the pockets of insurance companies and is leading the charge against teachers unions and public education (pushing charter schools, "merit pay," closing schools, and wholesale firing of teachers). The March 24 coalition blanks out Obama's role since its organizers were complicit in his election.

Student and labor activists are excited and inspired by the recent outpouring of struggle in Wisconsin. Tens and hundreds of thousands mobilized day after day while the state capitol was occupied and workers vowed militant resistance to Governor Scott Walker's vicious union-busting bill. Many chanted "general strike" as they stormed the capitol trying to "kill the bill." But even though the local labor federation voted to endorse a general strike, this has been sabotaged and betrayed by the union bureaucrats.

It is vital to learn the lessons of Wisconsin. Democratic state senators were hailed as heroes for skipping the state and stalling the vote on the bill to eliminate col-

Visit the League for the Fourth International/
Internationalist Group on the Internet

<http://www.internationalist.org>

Write to CUNY Internationalist Clubs: cunyinternationalists@gmail.com

Revolution

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lective bargaining rights for public sector workers. Yet the Democrats (and the union bureaucrats) declared their support for all the cuts in wages, pensions and health care demanded by the Republican governor. Now the union tops are squelching strike action and instead focusing on a campaign to recall Republican legislators.

If in Wisconsin, the onslaught was led by a far-right Republican governor, in New York the attack on labor has come from a liberal Democrat. Andrew Cuomo launched his run for governor saying “We’re going to be tangling with public employee unions” (Albany Times Union, 26 May 2010). The labor fakery were in a pickle, teachers unions did not endorse Cuomo. So instead they stumped for the “Working Families Party,” whose gubernatorial candidate was ... Andrew Cuomo.

Question: How can you fight layoffs, budget cuts and tuition hikes in a political bloc with Democratic politicians who vote for layoffs, campaign for presidents who bomb Libya and gut education, and who from the White House to the state house ally with Republicans to push through the latest round of layoffs, cuts and hikes? Answer: you can’t.

“Tax the rich” and “fight the right” are diversions. The assault on labor can only be defeated through sharp class struggle. That means mobilizing to shred anti-labor legislation like New York’s no-strike Taylor Law. And it means breaking with the Democrats to build a workers party – not some electoral “labor party” but one that is prepared to wage the class struggle through to a workers government and socialist revolution. That is the only road to victory. ■

Q: When Is a Democrat Not a Democrat?

A: When the ISO Is Cheerleading for Him

An article on the website of the International Socialist Organization (ISO) by Doug Singsen enthusiastically describes the March 24 NYC “state of emergency” against budget cuts, noting that several thousand marchers came out, including unionists from AFSCME DC 37 and TWU Local 100. It also highlighted other “key supporters,” in particular “the Freedom Party, formed by City Councilmember Charles Barron after he left the Democratic Party” (Socialist Worker, 30 March).

One little problem: Charles Barron never left the Democratic Party. In our *Revolution* leaflet, we quoted Barron himself saying: “We are all registered Democrats.” If that’s not enough, go to Barron’s City Council web page, where it says right up top: “District 42 - Council Member - Democrat.” Or check out Barron’s vociferous support for the Democratic candidate in the 2008 presidential election, when he assured voters Barack Obama would put forward a “black agenda.” Like bombing an African country, Libya?

Granted, Barron talks out of both sides of his mouth, occasionally posing as a “revolutionary” with students while toeing the line as a member of the Democratic caucus of the City Council, even to the point of voting for layoff budgets. Barron is appealing to the millions of black voters who know that the Democratic Party is a racist party. But he wants to provide the appearance of breaking with it, without actually doing so. And while criticizing racist politicians like NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg, it isn’t the capitalist

Imperialist Spies Off Campus!

The People Who Listen to Your Phone Calls and Read Your E-Mails Went Trolling at Hunter College

The following leaflet by the CUNY Internationalist Clubs was distributed at Hunter College on March 4.

Everybody knows about the CIA and the FBI. But the National Security Agency (NSA) is the largest – and most secretive – of all the government’s spy agencies. This is the outfit that Senator Frank Church said, when he investigated U.S. domestic spying and “dirty tricks” back in 1975, could be used “to impose total tyranny.”

Intelligence historian James Bamford called it “the agency that could be Big Brother,” the sinister figure in George Orwell’s novel *1984* that was watching everyone. Only the NSA isn’t fiction, and YOU are the target.

In 2005 the NSA was exposed for engaging in massive, illegal telephone surveillance ordered by George W. Bush. The next year, it was revealed that with the help of AT&T the super-secret spy agency was intercepting almost all international (and likely most domestic long-distance) phone calls.

The NSA also scans and stores your e-mails, instant messages and every other form of electronic communication: some 1.7 billion messages a day, as reported in the *Washington Post*’s 2010 investigation, “Top Secret America.” And this continues under President Barack Obama.

These attacks on your basic rights go together with the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act’s shredding of much of what was supposedly guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. This ever-expanding intelligence apparatus is part and parcel of the U.S. government’s “Global War on Terror,” which is really a war to terrorize the world into submission to Washington’s *diktat*. As U.S. forces bomb civilians in Afghanistan and continue to occupy Iraq indefinitely, the government needs to regiment the population on the “home front.”

system he’s attacking.

But in this he gets a lot of cover from his leftist cheerleaders, who are not limited to the ISO. The Workers World Party practically liquidated into Barron’s campaign for governor on the Freedom Party line last year. These reformist self-proclaimed socialists are always looking to “ally” with liberal Democrats. They say “fight back” against calls to “cut back,” but they don’t say break with the Democrats. *Class collaboration* rather than class struggle is the name of their game. They just want to build their “movement.”

Over a century ago, the German reformist Eduard Bernstein declared, “the movement means everything for me and that what is usually called ‘the final aim of socialism’ is nothing.” Sound familiar, ISO? At least he was talking about a socialist movement, his clones are talking about a “movement” with the capitalist Democrats. As Rosa Luxemburg replied to Bernstein: “The question of reform or revolution, of the final goal and the movement, is ... but the question of the petty-bourgeois or proletarian character of the labour movement” (*Reform or Revolution*). True then, true now.



Protest initiated by CUNY Internationalist Clubs against imperialist spy agency recruiting at Hunter College, March 4. ISO participated also.

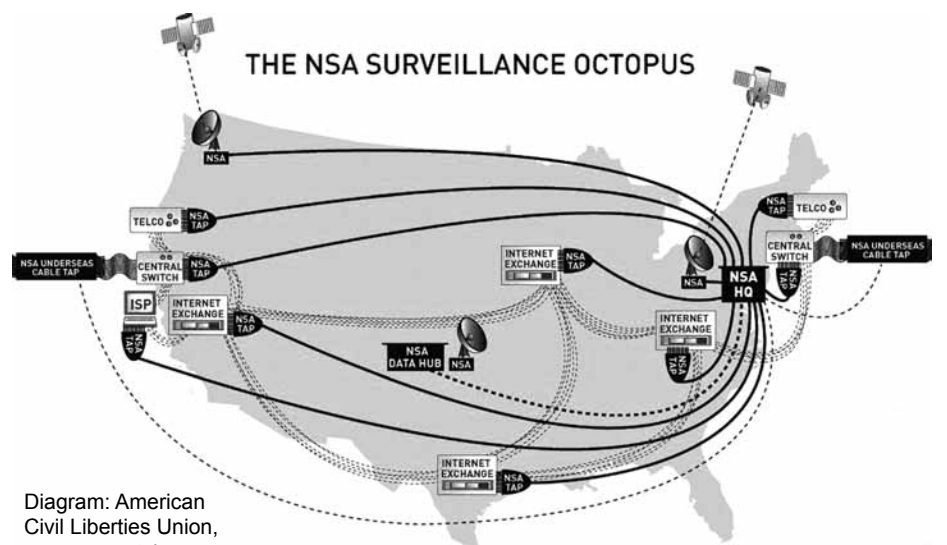


Diagram: American Civil Liberties Union, www.nsawatch.org

Now the NSA has announced that it is coming to Hunter this Friday, March 4, to hold interviews with students “looking for a career.” The spy agency recruiters plan to conduct an “Info Session for Language Students” this

Friday, March 4, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Chanin Language Center (Hunter West B126). **There should be vigorous protest by students, faculty and staff against this outrageous intrusion of imperialist spies!**

Mobilize Workers Power – Free Troy Davis Now!

With the stroke of a pen, on March 28 the U.S. Supreme Court rejected every appeal of Troy Anthony Davis, clearing the last significant legal obstacle in the way of his execution by the state of Georgia. The justices in their togas gave no explanation for their summary judgment.

Davis, a 42-year-old black man, was framed by police and prosecutors for the murder of a Savannah, Georgia police officer in 1989, based on the coerced and false testimony of supposed eyewitnesses, the majority of whom have since renounced their testimony. Since his conviction in 1991, this innocent man has been on Georgia’s Death Row.

No physical evidence was ever presented. The courts have refused to consider the testimony of the seven out of nine original prosecution witnesses who have told the real story of the workings of the capitalist “justice” system. Darrell Collins was only 16 when more than a dozen police officers converged on his home: “I told them that ... I didn’t

see Troy do nothing. They got real mad when I said this and started getting in my face.... After a couple of hours of the detectives yelling at me and threatening me, I finally broke down and told them what they wanted to hear. ... The police had me so messed up that I felt that’s all I could do or else I would go to jail.” (See “Troy Davis Must Not Die!” *The Internationalist* No. 28 [March-April 2009] for a fuller account.)

The impending execution of Troy Davis despite appeals on his behalf by leading bourgeois figures, from former U.S. president Carter to the Catholic pope, is testimony to the centrality of the death penalty in upholding police power in the racist American capitalism from the days of slavery to now.

ILA dock workers and many others in Savannah, Georgia know know that Troy Davis is innocent. It is urgently necessary to **mobilize workers power to stop this legal lynching and smash the racist death penalty!**

Join the Fight for Socialist Revolution

Join the CUNY Internationalist Clubs!

We are the CUNY Internationalist Clubs, the organization of revolutionary Marxist students at the City University of New York. We seek to win students to the struggle to sweep away the wreckage of capitalism and to replace it with a socialist society.

Capitalism is a *system* that produces endless war, poverty and racism. Just look at the world around you.

Today, with 20 million people jobless in the U.S., with half of all 16-to-24-year-olds unable to find work, with 18 million homes unoccupied as the banks foreclose with a vengeance, with 400,000 immigrants deported every year and the unending U.S. war and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, it's not hard to see that *we need a revolution*. Our job is to help make it happen.

The CUNY Internationalist Clubs go back to the fall of 2001 when we waged a campaign in defense of immigrant students at CUNY. As the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, the CUNY administration, prodded by racist politicians, did its part for the "war effort." It tried to throw thousands of immigrant students out of school by charging them the much higher "out of state" tuition rate. In response, the Internationalist Group initiated protests of hundreds that eventually were able to roll back this "war purge" for many undocumented students.

Students who worked on this campaign went on to form the Hunter Internationalist Club. In 2003 we were joined by the Revolutionary Reconstruction Club at Bronx Community College, and began publishing our newspaper *Revolution*.

So what do the CUNY Internationalist Clubs do? Well, first of all, we **educate** ourselves and our fellow students about the struggle of the working class and the oppressed, and the revolutionary theory of Marxism, with forums, study groups, and our newspaper and other publications. Check out what we have to say, and come discuss it with us!

We also **agitate** against all the injustices that are created by the capitalist system: for the *defeat of the U.S. in its bloody imperialist war* in Afghanistan and Iraq and attacks on immigrants "at home." We fight against the racist oppression of black people; to *abolish the death penalty*; to mobilize workers power to defend black and Latino communities against police brutality.

We fight for *full citizenship rights for all immigrants*; for genuine equality for women, including the right to *free abortion on demand* and for *free, 24-hour childcare*; for equal rights for gays and lesbians.

We fight for free, integrated higher education for all: for *open admissions* with *no tuition* and *living stipends* so working-class students can afford to study. We don't accept funds (or censorship) from the school administration: we say *abolish the Board of Trustees*. CUNY should be run by democratically elected committees of students, teachers and workers.

And together with the Internationalist Group, we **organize** students to join the struggle to put an end to these injustices by helping to build a *revolutionary workers party*, inspired by the Bolshevik party that led the first successful *workers revolution* in Russia in October of 1917.

Here we need to talk some history. In Russia for the first time ever the workers, supported by the poor peasants and soldiers, smashed the old regime, seized power and formed their own government based on workers councils, or "soviets." The Bolsheviks saw this as the beginning of an international socialist revolution that would bring down capitalist rule, liberate the colonized subjects of imperialism, and open the road to a future communist world free of class oppression. Today we carry on their struggle.

The CUNY Internationalist Clubs stand on the tradition and program of Leon Trotsky, the organizer with Lenin of the October Revolution, leader of the Soviet Red Army and founder of the Fourth International. Despite the usurpation of political power by a conservative, nationalist bureaucracy under Stalin, who betrayed the Revolution and its internationalist program, the Trotskyists unconditionally defended the Soviet Union against counterrevolution from within or without.

When capitalist rule was restored in the USSR and East Europe in 1989-92 it led to devastation for working people, particularly women. Today we likewise defend the bureaucratically deformed workers states of China, Cuba, North Korea and Vietnam against imperialism and the encroachment of capitalism, while fighting for internationalist workers democracy to oust the Stalinist rulers who are selling out the remaining gains of revolution.

What is capitalism?

Mass poverty side-by-side with obscene wealth defines our world. The clothes you're wearing were probably made by workers in Haiti or Bangladesh who are literally paid starvation wages, less than \$3 a day, while the bosses make billions by exploiting their labor. But it's more than economics. Capitalism produces all sorts of social oppression.

With the Civil Rights movement ending official segregation, and now the election of Barack Obama, it's claimed that America has gone "beyond race." Wrong. From the time of slavery and still today, U.S. capitalism has racial oppression written into its DNA. The vast majority of black people in the U.S. are still last-hired and first-fired, live in segregated neighborhoods, and go to underfunded, over-crowded segregated public schools, under a regime of police brutality.

Today in the United States, over two million people are in prison. Most are black or Latino, and most are in prison for non-violent drug or property "crimes." One third of black men in their twenties are in prison, on probation or on parole.

Every day, hundreds of immigrant workers are snatched by the police and shipped to private prisons and concentration camps on the way to deportation, while the media and politicians compete with immigrant-bashing campaigns. The racist Arizona law SB 1070 is "racial profiling" that recalls Nazi Germany or apartheid South Africa: anyone who "looks like" an undocumented immigrant can be arrested if they don't have proper documents on them.

Yet black workers are a strategic part of the U.S. economy, and increasingly immigrant workers are as well. So why are they targeted by the forces of repression?

Because the rulers need an "enemy within," to regiment the population for their "war on terror," and a scapegoat for the economic chaos created by their capitalist system.

Regardless of whether there's a Democrat or a Republican in the White House, they're the partner parties of American capitalism. They both voted to hand over trillions to the Wall Street bankers for the economic crisis they created; they're both war parties. Smaller "third parties" are just pressure groups: the Greens are a home for orphaned liberals as the Democrats lurch to the right, while in New York the "Working Families Party" is just a ballot line so people can vote Democratic while holding their nose.

What we need is to break with all bourgeois parties and build a revolutionary workers party that fights to overthrow the capitalist system.

Why socialism?

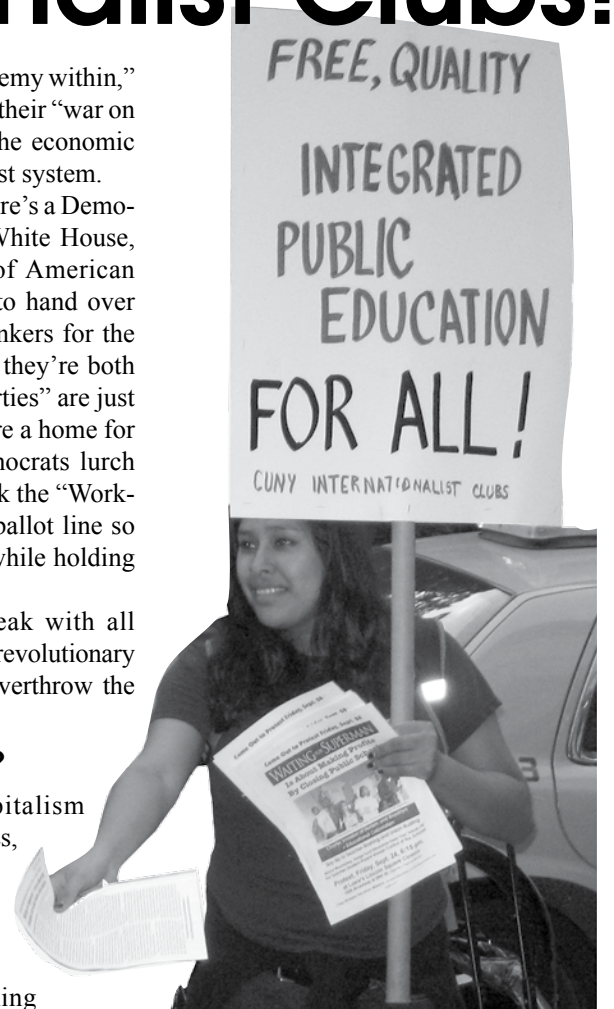
Once upon a time, capitalism represented economic progress, in its brutal way. It revolutionized production, swept away the barriers of feudalism, and brought into being an international, millions-strong working class. But those days are long gone, capitalism is decaying. Today technological innovations are accompanied by a decline in living standards. In the U.S. today, the prospects for young people are worse than for our parents: fewer will complete college, on top of which we're saddled with tens of thousands of dollars in student debt, which you can't get rid of even by declaring bankruptcy.

There's got to be a better way, and there is. Workers have the power to take control of the means of production, get rid of the oppressive capitalist state, and organize the economy for the purpose of meeting human needs, not for the private profit of property owners. This is the only solution to capitalism: *workers revolution*.

How do we get there? In recent years, there's been a lot of talk by anarchists and others against parties. Yet history shows that for the working class to take power requires a party to centralize and lead the struggle against a very powerful and centralized enemy. The idea that we can prevail against the Pentagon, the White House and Wall Street with little collectives is simply not serious.

The revolutionary party we need must be one that champions the cause of all those exploited and oppressed by capitalist society, bringing revolutionary class consciousness to the mass of workers in the course of the class struggle. Students and youth can play an important role in this struggle, if we understand what we're fighting for and get organized, allied with the power of the working class. That's what we in the Internationalist Clubs are about.

There are some other groups at CUNY that claim to be "socialist." But they stand for something very different. The International Socialist Organization celebrated the election of Barack Obama, the commander in chief of U.S. imperialist war, and plastered Hunter College with posters saying "yes we can." The Spartacist League once stood for revolutionary Trotskyism but



abandoned the fight to defeat "its own" imperialism in the wake of 9/11. Earlier this year it supported the U.S. military occupation of Haiti. Groups like "Fight Imperialism, Stand Together" and the Party for Socialism and Liberation are cheering squads for union bureaucrats, "Third World" capitalist dictators, and local Democratic politicians. In their various ways, they all end up supporting capitalism.

Right now we are a small group with big tasks ahead of us. What we have going for us is a revolutionary program, and a determination to make our deeds match our words. In 2004-05 we were able to kick military recruiters off the campus of Bronx Community College and to spike a planned "Homeland Security" torture school at Borough of Manhattan Community College. We defended Miguel Malo, a Hostos Community College student who was beaten by campus cops for protesting cuts to ESL classes. Recently we came out to defend a planned Islamic center in lower Manhattan against anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant hysteria.

We have led student/worker protests at Hunter College against tuition hikes, in defense of cafeteria workers against union-busting, and in solidarity with the first-ever workers strike against a U.S. war, on May 1 2008 when the seaports of the West Coast were shut down by the dockworkers union. We've held educational forums for hundreds of students on issues ranging from the war to the fight to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, the renowned radical journalist and former Black Panther on Pennsylvania's death row for a crime he didn't commit. We have helped to organize solidarity with courageous strikers at the University of Puerto Rico; and we work closely with our comrades in Mexico of the Comité Internacionalista, which arose from the heroic ten-month occupation of Mexico's National University.

This is just the beginning. Join the Internationalist Clubs and join the struggle for a socialist world! ■

Fighting to Abolish the Two-Tier Labor System

CUNY Adjuncts “Won’t Take No for an Answer”

By Igor
(member, Class Struggle
Education Workers)

Conditions are deteriorating at the City University of New York (CUNY). Rising tuition forces students to scramble for federal, state, private bank and credit card loans every semester just to stay in school, while many have already been forced to postpone their education for financial reasons. “Class shopping” (the frustrating experience of searching for an open seat in a class) is increasingly prevalent as budget cuts force departments to reduce the number of classes, making it nearly impossible to fulfill degree requirements and graduate in four years.

If getting into a class was not hard enough, the classes themselves are overcrowded, and the overwhelmed professors find it increasingly difficult to give students individual attention. Infrastructure in the CUNY colleges is crumbling and administration cannot adequately service the growing number of students as enrollment goes up. Yet there always seems to be money for digital turnstiles, increased security and more cops.

Why is all of this happening? Why is education in CUNY and other public universities becoming more expensive and worse every semester? It is because the capitalist ruling class is waging war on working people and on the democratic right to quality higher education. In the crosshairs of this attack are the “adjunct” or “contingent” faculty. They have dismal working conditions: ballooning class sizes, little or no office space or paid office hours, poverty wages (can you live on \$15,000–20,000 per year in New York City?) and no job security.

There are more than 11,000 adjunct faculty at CUNY, over 60% of the instructional staff. Adjuncts teach over half of all courses, and roughly two-thirds of all classes in the two-year colleges such as Hostos, Bronx Community and Medgar Evers. The higher education “industry” depends on this “two-tier” labor system with its huge numbers of instructors teaching for poverty pay. If adjuncts struck, most grading and teaching would grind to a halt. The flip side is that to get rid of these abysmal wages and conditions it is necessary to take on the entire system.

The attack is being pressed from coast to coast, and not mainly by right-wing Republicans. Most dramatically in California, Democratic governor Jerry Brown slashed \$1.4 billion from public higher education funding in this year’s budget. New York governor Andrew Cuomo, another Democrat, signed the state budget on March 31 which included cuts of over \$107 million from CUNY. Also on the chopping block: public schools, Medicare and hospitals, homeless shelters, and 10,000 public workers Cuomo wants to fire.

Thus today we see a seeming paradox: as a result of the capitalist economic crisis, laid-off workers are heading to community colleges to upgrade their skills while upper middle-class students whose families can no longer afford Ivy League tuition are shifting to public universities. At the City University of New York, with over half a million full- and part-time students by far the largest urban university in the country,

enrollment is increasing. Yet as the budget axe comes down on CUNY, many adjuncts are losing their jobs.

This is no accident: the CUNY administration and board of trustees, representing the interests of capital, are committed to a bipartisan mission to privatize public education and resegregate it by race and class. They want public universities to act like corporations, and key to that is lowering their wage costs. Meanwhile, they spend top dollar to lure a few academic “stars” who can attract grant money. And as the state and city cut funds to higher education in half, they shove more of the cost onto students.

The governor along with Democrats and Republicans in the state legislature are telling New Yorkers to make “hard decisions” and move towards “fiscal responsibility.” In other words the capitalist politicians expect us, the working people, to pay for a budget “crisis” which we did not cause. This, at a time when Wall Street is making record profits and paying out billions of dollars in bonuses, we scrape and borrow for tuition to pay for a degree that might not result in a rewarding career or even a job.

This “jobless recovery” and “sacrifices” are indeed shared, as big business and banks get the “recovery” through multi-billion bailouts from our tax dollars while we get the “jobless” part. The remedy is *class struggle*. The struggle of students for quality and accessible education, and that of teachers and other workers in CUNY for a living wage, benefits and job security, is a common one. Students will have to unite with teachers and other workers in CUNY and everywhere to fight back against the assault on public education and other social programs.

Our rallying cry is: “Students and Workers, Shut the City Down!”

CUNY Adjuncts Fed Up and Fighting Back

The Summer 2010 edition of the administration’s mouthpiece, *CUNY Matters*, praised the widespread introduction of waiting lists for admission and enrollment at CUNY as “Streamlining the Path for New Applicants.” What path might that be? The one *not* going to college? It seems that cutting back on course offerings, “non-reappointing” (i.e. firing) adjunct professors – as well as higher education officers (HEOs, a job category that includes many counselors and other “non-academic” employees) who stand up for their rights – and wait-listing students are all ways to “better manage the surge of students and help make CUNY more selective in the process.”

The issue of low-wage part-time faculty has come to a head as the contract between CUNY and the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) expired in October 2010. Last time around, in July 2008, the PSC leadership signed a deal with the CUNY administration that actually *increased* the pay disparity between tenured and non-tenured instructors, and did nothing to improve job security for adjuncts. The union bureaucrats then refused to allow any real discussion among the union membership before balloting to ratify the sellout contract. Adjuncts were furious.

CUNY Contingents Unite (CCU) was formed out of the fight over this sellout.

Members of Class Struggle Education Workers, a programmatically defined trade union tendency, play a leading role in the CCU. But at the same time, we have stressed that as a “functional entity” to represent all contingent academic workers at CUNY and in the PSC, “the CCU must continue to include people of many different political persuasions” (see “Adjunct Rebellion at CUNY” in *Revolution* No. 5, September 2008).

Although the PSC leadership is in the hands of the “progressive” New Caucus, its base is among the far higher paid full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty (whose average salaries go from the \$60,000 range to well over \$100,000). Thus the union tops have stood in the way of any real struggle for the most downtrodden section of its members. In current contract negotiations, the CCU developed four contract demands focusing on pay parity, job security, and health care for adjuncts, grad student employees and HEOs. It called for:

- Minimum three-year contracts for adjuncts, with documented reasons for non-reappointment and a system of seniority.
- Wage increase of \$30 per credit hour for adjuncts; equivalent for grad fellows and other contingent titles. Step raises every year.

- Comprehensive employer-paid health insurance on par with municipal workers for all contingent employees.

- Promotional series, real job security and due process for Higher Education Officers.

These demands were also adopted by the Adjunct Project (AP) at the CUNY Graduate Center. Together, the CCU and AP gathered over 1,400 signatures of PSC members calling on the union to adopt these four contract demands. But the PSC leadership pulled out all the stops to avoid this. The PSC leadership released its proposed contract demands only 24 hours before a November 4 expanded union delegate assembly at which the union’s bargaining position was to be decided.

At the assembly, almost 100 adjuncts and graduate employees showed up, many admitted as “guests.” CCU activists presented the four demands to be included as part of the official bargaining proposal. Discussion of the part-timers’ demands dominated the debate. Several delegates who are full-time faculty supported them as well. The “guests” applauded lustily. But bureaucratic loyalists soon moved to cut off debate. Over significant opposition, the PSC bureaucracy rushed its official demands through to approval, voting against the contingent employees’ demands.

The result is that in the upcoming negotiations with the anti-union CUNY administration, backed to the hilt by a Democratic



CSEW joined with CUNY Internationalist Clubs and Internationalist Group at March 24 march at NYC City Hall in opposition to coalition with Democrats.

governor elected on a platform of going after public employee unions, the PSC leadership won’t even be trying to get equal pay and job security for the majority of its membership. But CUNY Contingents Unite has refused to back down, saying in a November 19 flyer: “CUNY contingent workers won’t take ‘NO’ for an answer.” The CCU newsletter *Advance* (February 2011) declares that despite the delegates’ vote: “The CCU must continue to mobilize, organize and educate for our 4 contract demands.”

The Struggle Continues...

The struggle to defend adjuncts against the capitalist onslaught is hardly limited to bargaining demands. Last fall at Baruch College, the administration tried to implement massive adjunct layoffs and combine course sections into “jumbo classes” with over 100 students. The CCU organized meetings of part- and full-time teachers along with students, working with the Baruch chapter of the PSC. This forced the administration to back off the most drastic proposals, but class sizes are still being increased and the total adjunct budget is still being cut. “While our organizing efforts helped save a number of jobs,” noted the CCU’s *Advance* (February 2011), “the situation is far from resolved.”

The lack of job security for adjuncts means that “academic freedom” is tenuous. Witness the move by Brooklyn College to rescind the appointment of adjunct Kristofer Petersen-Overton to teach a seminar on politics in the Middle East this past January. This came days after Dov Hikind, a Democratic state assemblyman and co-founder of the Jewish Defense League (a virulent Zionist terrorist group), complained to the college administration that Petersen-Overton’s writings were too critical of Israel. After a huge outcry, Petersen-Overton got his appointment back, but other adjuncts deemed by university

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Brutal Police Repression at the University of Puerto Rico

From Mexico: Solidarity with UPR Students

Since April of last year, students at the University of Puerto Rico have been fighting a drive to saddle them with increased tuition costs and to privatize parts of the UPR. After students won an initial victory following 62 days on strike last June, the government responded with heavy repression.

MEXICO CITY – On Thursday, March 10 students at the southern campus of the College of Sciences and Humanities (CCH-Sur, a school belonging to the baccalaureate system of UNAM, the National University of Mexico) devoted a day of solidarity with the courageous students of the University of Puerto Rico who, since last year, have been carrying out a hard fight against the privatization onslaught unleashed by the colonial government.

In the framework of activities celebrating International Working Women's Day, the Comité Internacionalista of CCH-Sur organized a forum about the struggle in Mexico and internationally for women's basic right to free abortion on demand as part of high-quality medical care for all.

More than 60 students participated in the event, and up to a hundred listened to the performance of *son jarocho* (a Mexican music genre merging black and indigenous musical influences) and hip-hop songs performed by communist musicians belonging to the Revolutionary Hip-hop Association (ARH, an artistic organization fraternally linked to the Grupo Internacionalista).

Various speakers gave greetings to the Puerto Rican students in struggle against the imposition of tuition charges of \$800, and the crowd applauded their courageous struggle. A teacher who is a member of the Grupo Internacionalista underlined that the



Banner of the Grupo Internacionalista/México for March 10-11 events at the National University in solidarity with the students of the University of Puerto Rico.

privatization onslaught that the UPR students are facing today is part of a package of economic policies dictated by international financial bodies like the IMF and World Bank to even further restrict access to higher education by the sons and daughters of the working class.

As is occurring today in Puerto Rico, a decade ago the Mexican government tried to impose tuition fees at UNAM, as a clear measure of class exclusion, which would force tens of thousands of students to leave school. In 1999-2000, the UNAM students responded with a tenacious strike that continued for ten months. Despite ending with

the arrest of a thousand students and the massive police occupation of the university, the strike made the bourgeois government retreat from its plans. Thus today, UNAM students still pay no tuition.

Key during the 1999-2000 UNAM strike in Mexico, and key today in the case of the University of Puerto Rico, was support to the student strike by important unions, such as the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME) and the unions of the university workers at UNAM and the Autonomous Metropolitan University. For the last year and a half, the SME has been the target of a ferocious union-busting attack by the govern-

ment of Mexican president Felipe Calderón.

A young woman activist emphasized that the fight to establish the basic democratic right to education, whether in Mexico City, New York or San Juan, Puerto, as well as the fight for women's emancipation and to put an end once and for all to every kind of oppression, is, in the final analysis, the struggle for international socialist revolution. A comrade who performed a hip-hop song ended with this call to struggle: "*From the students of CCH Sur / to the students of the UPR / a fighting salute of proletarian solidarity / of internationalist solidarity / of struggle for permanent revolution.*" ■

International Women's Day: A Proletarian Day of Struggle

As part of activities around International Women's Day, March 8, our comrades of the Grupo Internacionalista/México held a series of talks at the National University (UNAM), including on our call for free abortion on demand; for full democratic rights for gays and lesbians; and for women's liberation through socialist revolution. We print here an excerpt from the talk by comrade Yvonne on the origins of International Women's Day as a working-class socialist day of struggle.

As heirs of the historic and political legacy of Bolshevism, we celebrate International Women's Day as a working-class holiday. In contrast to the bourgeois feminists who falsely lay claim to this day with an endless stream of phrases exalting the "sisterhood of all women," we emphasize that the genuine struggle for the emancipation of women is the working-class struggle for socialist revolution. For us communists, International Women's Day is neither a

celebration of motherhood nor of the unity of women on moral grounds, but rather a day to recover the historical memory of international proletarian solidarity, which is indispensable to the struggle for the emancipation of all the oppressed.

On March 8 we remember a struggle undertaken in 1908 by women workers in the United States. On that day, the women workers (most of them immigrants) of the textile factories of Manhattan organized a massive protest against their deplorable working conditions. Among the 20,000 who marched were seamstresses from the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, who marched down the avenues denouncing the arbitrary abuses that they suffered. Their demands included installing emergency exits, keeping the doors open throughout the workday, a wage raise, the eight-hour work day, a ban on child labor, and equal pay and voting rights for women. The next year, on February 28, this protest led the Socialist Party to

designate a special day in honor of working women.

This example extended to the European socialist parties: at the Second International Conference of Socialist Women held at Copenhagen in August 1910, the German socialist leader Clara Zetkin pushed strongly for the establishment of an annual day for promoting the unity and solidarity of proletarian women, as an essential part of their struggle for equal political and economic rights. The conference emphasized the necessity of carrying out a socialist revolution to uproot centuries of backwardness, oppression and exploitation. The conference resolved to declare

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CUNY Students and the Fight for Mumia's Freedom

by Caitlin

"Students from Hunter College in New York City" who are studying "revolutionary history" were among the hundreds of people who came to support death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal at his most recent court hearing, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (10 November 2010) reported last fall. They made the trip to Philly with the Internationalist Club as part of the struggle to free Mumia, a life-long fighter for black freedom and an award-winning journalist known as the Voice of the Voiceless. Internationally, Mumia is one of the most famous death-row prisoners of all time – a street outside Paris was even named for him (drawing condemnation from the U.S. Congress). Within the United States, including on college campuses, his case is still unknown to many.

With black and Latino youth facing daily police abuse and mass incarceration, the false conviction, death sentence and imprisonment – for the past 27 years – of Mumia Abu-Jamal are harsh reminders of the brutal realities of this country's legal injustice system. Falsely charged for the 1982 killing of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner, Mumia was the victim of a political frame-up, having been targeted since the age of 15 for speaking, writing and organizing against the notorious racism, brutality and corruption of the city's political machine and police department.

Facts of a Frame-Up

As Mumia declared in an affidavit submitted to the courts in 2001: "I did not shoot Police Officer Daniel Faulkner. I had nothing to do with the killing of Officer Faulkner. I am innocent." Numerous legal and forensic experts have shown how his trial was unjust and his conviction based on false evidence in-



CUNY Internationalist Clubs and Internationalist Group march for Mumia in Philadelphia, 9 October 2010.

cluding coerced testimonies which have since been recanted, police contamination of the crime scene, suppression of evidence showing Mumia's innocence, blatant contradictions and absurdities in the prosecution's story, the removal of eleven eligible black jurors from the original jury, and a flagrantly racist

judge (Albert Sabo) who was even overheard saying he would help "fry the n----r."

These are just a few of the shocking elements of Mumia's trial and ultimate conviction detailed in many sources, including *The Internationalist* and *The Framing of Mumia Abu-Jamal* (Lawrence Hill Books, 2008) by J. Patrick O'Connor, editor and publisher of *Crime Magazine*. One of the most notorious aspects of the frame-up was how police used pending charges against a prostitute named Veronica Jones to coerce her to tes-

tify against Mumia. During a 1996 court hearing, Jones took the stand to explain in detail how police used charges against her in an unrelated case, together with the promise that she would be allowed to work without fear of further arrests, to coerce her into falsely fingering Mumia.

"Just name Mr. Jamal as the shooter," they told her. When Jones gave her testimony at the 1996 hearing (presided over by the same infamous "hanging judge" Sabo who helped railroad Mumia in the original trial), the judge dug up an ancient bench warrant from New Jersey to have her arrested on the witness stand as a warning to anyone who would come forward to tell the truth about how the frame-up was orchestrated.

In 1999, a man named Arnold Beverly made a sworn confession stating that he and another man had been hired to kill Faulkner because he was "a problem for the mob and corrupt policemen because he interfered with the graft and payoffs made to allow illegal activity including prostitution, gambling, drugs without prosecution in the center city area." Beverly stated unequivocally that "Abu-Jamal had nothing to do with it."

Live from Death Row...

Locked in a cell 23 hours a day, denied contact with friends and family, and routinely having his mail illegally opened by prison authorities, Mumia has endured the harshest punishment and faces execution for a crime that he did not commit. Yet despite all this, he is one of the best and most inspiring *teachers* of our time. If this sounds like

an exaggeration, just check out his "Prison Radio" broadcasts (available on line at <http://www.prisonradio.org/mumia.htm>).

In these recordings, as well as a stream of columns and articles, he incisively connects history to burning issues of the day, from the rebellion in Egypt to WikiLeaks, the criminalization of a generation of black and Latino youth, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the too-often neglected story of Toussaint Louverture and the Haitian Revolution, and how it relates to why and how Obama used last year's Haiti earthquake as an excuse for a new colonial invasion. Mumia has also written many books, including *Live from Death Row* (1996) and *We Want Freedom: A Life in the Black Panther Party* (2008), which among other things shows how he first drew the wrathful attention of the police and FBI as a teenaged Panther in Philly.

Last semester at CUNY, the Internationalist Clubs organized events at Lehman and Hunter College about the fight to free Mumia, including forums and screenings of the films *In Prison My Whole Life* and *Justice on Trial: The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal*. During these meetings, people shared their own experiences with racism and brutality in the criminal "justice" system. Many students who attended these meetings were shocked to be learning of Mumia's case for the first time as the truth of his case is buried by media outlets that seek to stifle his critiques of the "justice" system, racial oppression and imperialism.

The Internationalist Group's publica-
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Defeat NATO Attack on Libya



Since mid-March, the U.S., France and Britain have been bombing the African country of Libya, supposedly enforcing a U.N. resolution to defend civilians. In reality, the NATO bombers, spies and military "advisors" are backing a pro-imperialist, monarchist/Islamist revolt. While giving no political support to the Qaddafi regime, CUNY Internationalist Clubs (above at March 18 NYC protest) call to defend Libya and defeat the imperialists.

Internationalist photo

Internationalist photo

Women's Day...

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March 8 *International Working Women's Day*, which was celebrated for the first time in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Denmark by thousands of workers, men and women, who took to the streets at the end of the 1911 winter, with the main slogan "For the right to vote through workers solidarity and the fight for socialism." They also raised demands for the right to work, for an end to discrimination at work, and for access to higher education.

In Russia, International Women's Day was first celebrated in 1913, as an event oriented to the working masses that presented a Marxist analysis of the origins of the oppression of women, along with presenting a political program for their emancipation. These positions were widely distributed by means of numerous speeches and in the Bolshevik newspaper *Pravda* (The Truth). On the eve of the first inter-imperialist World War and in the midst of a wave of repression against the workers movement, *Pravda* promoted the organization days of struggle around International Women's Day. The Bolsheviks also prepared a special magazine that would deal with questions related to women's liberation, both in Russia and around the world. This journal, called *Rabotnitsa* (Woman Worker), printed in its first issue an article by Nadezhda Krupskaya which emphasized that the emancipation of women is not the work of women alone, but the result of the struggle of woman workers alongside their male comrades, bringing together their interests with those of the whole working class: "That which unites working women with working men is stronger than that which divides them. They are united by their common lack of rights, their common needs, their common condition, which is struggle and their common goal.... Solidarity between working men and working women, common activity, a common goal, a common path to this goal – such is the solution of the 'woman' question among workers."

Rabotnitsa appeared on March 8, in spite of great difficulties, under the editorship of Anna Elizarova (Lenin's sister) – the only member of the journal's editorial board who escaped arrest by the tsar's police. This achievement was recognized and applauded by German comrades like Clara Zetkin: "Greetings to you on your courageous decision to organize Women's Day, congratulations to you for not losing courage and not wanting to sit by with your hands folded. We are with you, heart and soul. You and your movement will be remembered at numerous meetings organized for Women's Day in Germany, Austria, Hungary, and America."

The celebration of International Women's Day that had the greatest impact in history took place in Petrograd on 8 March 1917 (which corresponded to February 23 on the antiquated Julian calendar). After three years of world war, the imperialist chain began to break at its weakest link. Women workers at various textile factories went on strike and sent delegates to the metalworkers calling on them to join the movement. This led to a mass strike. In the heat of the class struggle, as hundreds of factories struck for higher wages, with hundreds of factories struck by more than 90,000 workers demanding higher wages, thousands of women, of angry women workers mobilized to protest the high cost of living and lack of food supplies, and for an end to the war. A worker from the Vyborg district recounted

the atmosphere of that memorable day:

"We could hear women's voices in the neighborhood overlooked by the windows of our department: 'Down with high prices!' 'Down with hunger!' 'Bread for the workers.' I and several comrades rushed to the windows.... Masses of militant women workers filled the neighborhood. Those who caught sight of us waved their arms, shouting 'Come on down!' 'Stop work!' Snowballs flew through the windows. We decided to join the demonstration."

This mobilization from the most intimidated and oppressed sector of the proletariat was headed by women workers in the textile industry, who pushed other workers to join them and to confront detachments of police, opening the gates to the great Russian Revolution of 1917, and putting an end to the 300-year-old Romanov dynasty. This great lesson in revolutionary initiative must be followed by the workers movement of the future as part of the struggle for international socialist revolution. ■

CUNY Adjuncts...

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officials to be too left-wing or critical can easily find themselves out of a job.

The struggle of students for free quality higher education available to all and of "contingent" employees at CUNY for equal pay, benefits and job security is part of a broader fight against the assault on union rights and living standards of private- and public-sector workers. Students must unite not just with CUNY faculty, but crucially with powerful sections of the working class and with the struggle of the downtrodden and oppressed black and immigrant communities to defeat the capitalist assault on public education and other social programs.

Ultimately, getting rid of the two-tier system of academic labor is part of the overall struggle against growing inequality, against attempts by the ruling class to dismantle public education, against the racism and war that condition everything in this society – and it is deeply connected what workers and youth are fighting for, and against, from Oaxaca to Puerto Rico to France. It really is a class struggle that we're in, and we need to be clear about what that entails. Central to this is the question of the Democratic Party.

The political strategy of the PSC officialdom is to "elect union-friendly candidates," as the union paper headlined (*Clarion* headline, December 2010). Andrew Cuomo, who went out of his way to emphasize that he would attack teachers unions, was a tough sell. So they didn't endorse the Democratic gubernatorial candidate this year. But instead of opposing this union-basher down the line, they said union members could vote for Cuomo and "send him a message by doing so on the Working Families Party line" (*Clarion*, November 2010)!

The fact that the New Caucus betrays the large majority of the union membership is not due to personal failings. It's because it is a political transmission belt and vote-herder for the same bourgeois party that governs the state and the country, the party of Obama and Cuomo. When PSC bigwigs argued at the November 4 meeting that the union's demands should be "subtle," with "no specific figures," it is because they *accept the confines of the capitalist system*.

Recently, without making any preparation for a serious labor mobilization, the PSC bureaucracy staged a photo-op "civil

disobedience" at the capitol in Albany on March 23. This was part of the annual budget negotiation "dance." Yet several leading members of the Adjunct Project and a prominent supporter of the International Socialist Organization signed an ecstatic "Letter from Graduate Center student-activists" declaring "We are excited that our union is making the critical step from protest to resistance" and hailing "the union leadership's responsiveness to the growing chorus of rank-and-file voices that have been calling for a stronger and more militant response to the attacks on labor." This is nothing less than a vote of confidence in the very "labor lieutenants of capital" and pro-Democratic bureaucrats who have sold out adjuncts time and again.

The struggle for quality higher education for all and to end the two-tier academic labor system will certainly require militant action shutting down the campuses. But that's only the beginning. Students and teachers can't do it alone. To smash the Taylor Law, we need to mobilize alongside real power: workers who can bring the capitalist system to its knees allied with and championing the struggles of all the oppressed, from the fight against the racist oppression of blacks, to the defense of immigrants, to the fight for women's liberation and full democratic rights for gays and lesbians.

As class-struggle activists, we call to oust the present "labor fakers" and to break with the Democratic Party and all capitalist parties, including the Greens, to build a class-struggle workers party. ■

Mumia...

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The Internationalist has continuously covered the struggle to free Mumia, highlighting the need to mobilize the power of labor in this cause. This includes a critique of illusions spread by liberals and reformists who claim that there really is or will be justice in the capitalist courts of oppression. Most recently this has taken the form of a petition campaign pleading for President Obama and his attorney general Eric Holder – both of whom have in effect come out *against* Mumia – to turn into his defenders. The petition calls on the feds to launch a "civil rights investigation" into the case.

This petition is a virtual vote of confidence in the very government that raids leftist antiwar and solidarity activists, enforces the USA PATRIOT Act and has locked away U.S. Army PFC Bradley Manning, who is "being held in inhuman conditions in military prison" (London *Guardian*, 16 March), on suspicion of passing documents to WikiLeaks that expose U.S. war crimes.

Join the Fight to Free Mumia!

The trip organized by the Internationalist Clubs to the Philadelphia courtroom last November 9 was to attend a hearing of the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals where a panel of three judges heard arguments on whether or not to reinstate the death penalty against Mumia. Prosecutors once again smeared Jamal as a "cop-killer," distorting his political views when he was a teenager in the Black Panthers.

The formal topic of the hearing centered on jury instructions given during Mumia's trial in 1982. In 2008, the 3rd Circuit had upheld an earlier federal district court decision that set aside the death penalty (unless there was a new sentencing hearing) on the grounds that the judge's instructions about possible mitigating circumstances confused

the jurors. But early last year, the U.S. Supreme Court changed its policy on this, and then ordered the panel to reconsider. In the November 9 hearing, Mumia's lawyer, Judith Ritter, argued again that Judge Sabo's instructions in 1982 trial explicitly – and wrongly – told jurors that there had to be "unanimous" agreement on any circumstance that would go against a death penalty.

It was a surreal experience in Philly on November 9, after passing the gauntlet of police, bag checks and metal detectors, to enter the "august" chamber and watch a panel of black-robed judges hear a clash of arguments over the meaning of a word or two on a court form that could spell the difference between life or death of one of the most courageous, brilliant and inspiring champions of the oppressed in our times.

The appeals court could decide against Mumia, opening the door to reinstating the death penalty. If Mumia prevails in his most recent arguments, the prosecution could again appeal to the Supreme Court to overturn the verdict. At best Mumia would receive a new sentencing hearing, in which the best he could get would be "life without parole": a living hell. And the powerful forces baying for his blood – with the Fraternal Order of Police leading the pack – would still demand that Mumia's death sentence be reinstated. One way or another, Mumia's life is on the line: we must redouble our efforts to *stop this legal lynching and win his freedom*.

We, as members of the CUNY Internationalist Clubs, want to involve other students in this struggle for freedom for Mumia. There have been hundreds of demonstrations in defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal over the last quarter century. Hundreds of thousands have protested for him in the streets and organizations representing millions have appealed to save him from the executioner. But such appeals fall on deaf ears, as the gears of the capitalist machinery of repression grind relentlessly on. *There is no justice for the oppressed in the capitalist courts!* Instead we must mobilize the strength of the working class to free Mumia.

That is exactly our Brazilian comrades of the Liga Quarta-Internacionalista do Brasil did when they initiated a first-ever work stoppage for Mumia's freedom, a state-wide action by the teachers union in Rio de Janeiro in April 1999. Subsequently, this demand has been raised in a number of strikes in Brazil (including general strikes), most recently in 2008. The 1999 Rio teachers' action was held in conjunction with the shutdown of West Coast U.S. ports the next day by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, which declared: "An injury to one is an injury to all, Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!"

These are but examples of the kind power that it will take to free Mumia, Troy Davis (see box, page 3) and other class-war prisoners.

Mumia's case vividly shows the racist and unjust nature of the legal system and its role in oppressing workers, the poor, and particularly African American people in a society born out of slavery. While the cops and courts enforce the "law and order" of the capitalist class, we look to the working class to thwart them. In the exploited and oppressed, without whose toil capitalism would grind to a halt, there is hope ... and power. As Mumia writes in *Death Blossoms: Reflections from a Prisoner of Conscience* (2003): "Here and there; in the barrios and the favelas; among those who have least, beat hearts of hope; fly sparks of Overcoming." ■

Revolution

Mobilize Workers' Power Against Racist Cop Terror

ILWU Shuts Ports Demanding Justice for Oscar Grant

By Fred

At two o'clock in the morning of New Year's Day, 2009, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) cop Johannes Mehserle stood over Oscar Grant and shot him in the back with a Sig Sauer P226 semi-automatic pistol, killing the 22-year-old black man. It was a cold-blooded execution: another officer had pinned Grant face-down on the platform so he couldn't move. It was the kind of cop murder, particularly of African American and Latino young men, that happens over and over in racist capitalist America. But Oscar Grant wasn't killed out of sight in a dark alley – instead this police crime took place in front of dozens of witnesses on the BART train being held in the Fruitvale station in Oakland, California. Some of them videoed it with their cellphones.

Following the cues of police spokesmen, local newspapers and television painted the picture of police intervening in a chaotic “brawl” (*San Francisco Chronicle* headline, 2 January 2009). The BART police and the district attorney announced an “investigation” of the gun’s “discharge.” Of course, the five police officers involved weren't talking: they were preparing a cover-up. But it didn't work. Eyewitness videos showing the police murder caught fire on the internet, and by the next day it was international news. Oscar Grant was murdered because he was black: the racist police figure they have a license to kill with impunity, and they do.

Working class and black Oakland was infuriated. Grant was a union meat cutter at a local supermarket, and father of a four-year-old daughter. While many had celebrated the new year full of hopes in the election of Barack Obama, yet another police slaying of an unarmed black man showed that some things were not about to change. Obama was put in office to be the head enforcer of U.S. capitalism, which ever since it was founded on the bedrock of slavery has enforced the oppression of the black population. Despite the passage of civil rights laws (many of them increasingly undermined), black people are still forcibly segregated at the bottom of this color-caste system. Particularly since the end of formal Jim Crow segregation, brutal police repression backed by the “justice” system is the prime instrument of this régime.

Police routinely kill innocent black people with impunity across the country. But last October 23, Local 10 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) shut down the port of Oakland for the day shift and led a rally of 600 outside Oakland City Hall to protest the insulting “involuntary manslaughter” verdict against Mehserle (by a jury in Los Angeles on which there was not one black person) and demand “justice for Oscar Grant.” This was a first for the U.S. labor movement, at least in recent years.

Relatives of the slain Oscar Grant, union officials and victims of other incidents of po-

lice brutality spoke to the crowd. The Longshore union carried its large banner with the slogan “An injury to one is an injury to all.” Up to a hundred mainly black longshoremen came out, as well as Oakland teachers. ILWU representatives at the protest recalled the police killing of two striking dock workers during a 1934 port strike in San Francisco – Bloody Thursday, July 5, that sparked the San Francisco General Strike. Earlier, last July 19, ILWU members and supporters of Oscar Grant outnumbered a pro-police “Free Mehserle” demonstration in the white suburb of Walnut Creek.

A number of left groups were prominent in building the action, and in pushing the slogan “Jail Killer Cops,” one of the main demands of the demonstration. This call shows illusions about the nature of the state, which backs its professional strikebreakers and racist killers in uniform to the hilt. Still, the fact that a major labor union organized a protest and stopped work against the murderous action of the racist cops and courts is extremely significant. While mainly symbolic, the ILWU action points toward a real mobilization of workers' power in militant class struggle against the brutal enforcers of capitalist “law and order.”

On 5 November 2010, killer cop Mehserle was sentenced to two years in prison. As Mumia Abu-Jamal commented, with sentence reductions and good behavior he could end up doing less time for the murder of a black man than one black man, the famous rapper Dwayne “Lil' Wayne” Carter Jr., spent in prison for simply possessing a gun (see “Free Lil' Wayne!” in *Revolution* No. 7, April 2010). That night, hundreds angrily protested the verdict in the streets of Oakland, as they have repeatedly since New Year's Day 2009. The police mobilized military force, arresting 152. Two days later the cops gunned down another unarmed black man, Derrick Jones, in East Oakland.

The stark fact is that to achieve justice for Oscar Grant and his supporters, the racist system that murdered him must be brought down through workers revolution.

“Jail Killer Cops”?

So what is to be done here and now? In the aftermath of the police killing of Oscar Grant, just about every “reform” measure to alter the functioning of the cops was proposed. BART management set up a committee to “investigate” its cops. A Coalition Against Police Execution (CAPE) was set up by activists from NGOs (foundation-



ILWU at October 23 Oakland rally demanding justice for Oscar Grant, murdered by the cops.

funded “non-governmental organizations”) which called for a “citizen review board to monitor excessive force” and supervise “diversity training” for the cops.

All these measures, “community policing,” hiring more black cops, putting in black police chiefs, black mayors and governors, and even a black president – have not stopped the police in the least from demeaning, harassing, beating and killing African Americans from coast to coast. They only serve to prettify a system that will never provide the equal employment, education, housing or health care that have so long been promised and denied to the black population. The oppression of blacks and racism are built into U.S. capitalism, poisonous weapons vital to keeping the working class divided. And the ruling class will least of all permit any real reforms to the police, who along with the courts and armed forces are the core of the capitalist state.

The current left-wing version of these deceptive “reforms” is the call to “jail killer cops.” This demand is particularly pushed by the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) and its International ANSWER coalition, but in protests over the killing of Oscar Grant it has been raised by virtually the entire Bay Area social-democratic left (International Socialist Organization, Socialist Viewpoint, Socialist Organizer, etc).

Here it is important to distinguish between the clamor of the mass of the oppressed black, Latino and immigrant population who live in inner city ghettos and barrios that are occupied by the police, and the demands of leftist would-be socialists. At a BART hearing on 7 January 2009, many Oakland residents demanded that the cop Mehserle be jailed. This racist murderer should certainly be behind bars for the rest of his life. But when the killer was finally arrested (and then released on bail) two weeks

after he shot Oscar Grant, it was hardly the victory many claimed. Mehserle is currently in jail, yet the whitewash verdict (claiming it was an accident) and minimum sentence were a slap in the face to the black population and all victims of cop terror.

An oppressed population demanding that a particular cop guilty of a heinous crime be jailed is desperately seeking some measure of justice. Communists patiently explain that they are justified in their desire, but that even in the rare case where the rulers decide to take a minimum measure in order to head off militant protest, this won't put a dent in the system of racist repression by the capitalist courts and cops. However, when leftists call to “jail killer cops” in general, they are propagating the bourgeois democratic myth that under pressure, the state can be made to serve the interests of the masses. This flatly contradicts the crucial Marxist understanding of the state as the instrument of the ruling class to enforce its class interests against the exploited and oppressed, and it feeds dangerous illusions.

Unions should mobilize their power in the struggle against black oppression and police brutality, as well as in defense of immigrants' rights. Labor/black/Latino defense guards can respond to particular threats. Faced with heinous crimes like the cop murder of Oscar Grant, what's urgently needed is for labor organizations to mobilize immediately, in the streets and with political strike action, in defense of the outraged black population against the rampaging police.

The key is to forge a revolutionary workers party that champions the cause of black freedom through socialist revolution, the central political question in American society. For Oscar Grant and all the victims of the class war, we fight for a socialist future without cops and without racism. The way to get there is workers revolution. ■

Full Citizenship Rights for All Immigrants!

The Dream Act Swindle

After months of mobilization and preparation, hundreds of immigrant youths wearing caps and gowns packed the Senate gallery last December to support the passage of the DREAM Act. Thousands around the country followed the live televised proceedings. Although a majority voted to end a Republican filibuster against the bill – 55 in favor, 41 against – it failed to reach the magic number of 60 votes. The next day, *El Diario-La Prensa* (19 December 2010) expressed the anguished frustration of many immigrants rights activists: “The hunger strikes, the arrests, the stories of students braving threats of deportation, the marches and protests: all for naught.”

The newspaper quoted a student spokesperson for the DREAM Act movement saying, “those who voted against this act betrayed their communities and will regret it in the elections.” Meaning: get out the vote for more Democrats. Certainly, prospects for similar legislation are even dimmer under the current Republican majority in the Senate. But it was the Democrats who killed the bill. Their claim that they had to have a super-majority to break a filibuster is a myth: any senator could have called for an immediate vote in which a simple majority would have passed it. The Democrats want to get votes from ethnic constituencies while keeping immigration off the election agenda.

The Dream Act movement is made up of various foundation-funded NGOs (“non-governmental organizations”) and carefully stage-managed by Democratic Party lobbying groups. Activists wrapped themselves in the American flag, emphasized that their “reform” would benefit only the “best and the brightest” immigrants, not “criminals” (i.e., their parents and most undocumented immigrants). In the countdown to the Senate vote, its big selling point – backed up by testimony from Pentagon officials – was that it offered fresh cannon fodder for America’s imperialist war machine. Youth could become eligible for “conditional residency” after serving a stint in the military.

If the defeat of this pro-military pseudo-reform teaches us anything, it should be that a real struggle to defend immigrants, to fight for full citizenship rights for all, must be a class struggle against all the capitalist parties, their wars, and their racist police state. Below, we reprint a leaflet issued by the CUNY Internationalist Clubs in October 2010.

Recently there has been a campaign on campuses and in immigrant communities to push for passage of the DREAM Act. This legislation, which has been around for a number of years, would make some undocumented immigrant youth eligible to apply for citizenship after completing two years in college ... or two years in the military. The latest device to get it past anti-immigrant forces in Congress was to attach it to the military appropriations bill. But in late September, it failed in the Senate (despite a majority vote in favor) because the Democrats said they couldn’t overcome a Republican filibuster against it. *El Diario-La Prensa* (23 September) headlined a report on a rally at New York’s City Hall, “Students Feel Used.”

Immigrant students are indeed being used, not only by rightist opponents but also by promoters of the DREAM Act. This supposedly pro-immigrant bill is supported by the Pentagon as a way to make up for the fact that fewer young people are signing up to kill and be killed in the U.S. war and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq. As we wrote in “CUNY and the Imperialist War” (*Revolution* No. 4, September 2007),

“With the help of the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement branch of Homeland Security) *Gestapo*, and the new drive for segregation in education, the imperialists are scheming ways to beef up their dwindling recruiting totals. One example of this is the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act. Many reformers hope this proposal will help undocumented immigrant students to continue with their higher education once they are out of high school, but the Pentagon has its own reasons to look forward to this ‘immigration reform’: a ‘hidden provision in the DREAM Act ... would tie permanent legal residency to military service.’ Offering oppressed immigrants the ‘choice’ of racist persecution or ‘earning’ citizenship by serving as cannon fodder for the class enemy is a tried-and-true recruiting method for the U.S. war machine.”

Recently, the Class Struggle Education Workers newsletter (October-December 2010) published a note on “DREAMS of Citizenship, Nightmare of War,” saying that this deceptive bill in reality “is a Trojan Horse for the Pentagon to target the already vulnerable Latino population, together with ad campaigns like ‘Yo Soy el Army.’”

In case anyone had any doubts about this, *USA Today* (24 September) spelled it out, noting that in “the less publicized part” of the DREAM Act, “the Pentagon is pushing for it as a means to staff the armed forces” in the face of a looming “crisis in military manpower.” The article quotes Jorge Mariscal, director of Latino studies at the University of California-San Diego, who stressed that many families of undocumented students are too poor to pay for college education: “Our concern is that people are just going to get trapped for economic reasons into the military.”

Several statements by Latino immigrant youths are being circulated saying they no longer back the DREAM Act, for a number of reasons. A September 17 letter by Raúl Al-qaraz Ochoa, “My Painful Withdrawal of Support for the DREAM Act,” noted how the

Lehman Internationalist Club Forum
A Panel Discussion With:
• Douglas Medina (Class Struggle Education Workers)
• Rafael Samanez and Clementina Garcia (Vamos Unidos Youth)
• Aubeen Lopez and Moises Delgado (Lehman Internationalist Club)

DREAM Act: Hope or NIGHTMARE?
War on Afghanistan and Iraq, Immigrants Under Attack

Wednesday, October 20, 6:00 p.m.
Student Life Bldg. Room 113

For more information, write to: cunyinternationalists@gmail.com

Around the country, many students put their hopes in the DREAM Act, with its promise of an easier “path to citizenship” for some younger immigrants. But this supposedly pro-immigrant bill is supported by the Pentagon as a way to make up for the fact that fewer young people are signing up to kill and be killed in the U.S. war and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq. Because this legislation would be a “dream come true” for the Pentagon, some student activists who initially supported the DREAM Act have now turned against it. The CUNY Internationalist Clubs never supported this “reform.” We say immigrants shouldn’t have to pay for rights by “serving” the imperialist war machine; we demand full citizenship rights for all immigrants and are for the defeat of U.S. imperialism in this war. Come discuss the way forward for the struggle for immigrants’ rights and against the war.

Leah Donatelli

Democrats are using it “as a political stunt to appeal to Latino voters for the November elections.” Raúl’s letter was greeted by many. One Latina wrote: “thanks a million for voicing... these feelings and reflections out. I think many of us have felt afraid and impotent to hold this conversation.” Latino youth in the *Vamos Unidos* group in the Bronx wrote that they now oppose the DREAM Act as a “de facto, military draft” targeting undocumented immigrants.

The October 7 demonstration “in defense of public education” originally called for passage of the DREAM Act. In the face of mounting opposition to it, that demand mysteriously disappeared from some e-mail messages for the demo in New York. However, it is still on the official flyers and call. The organizers knew long ago what the DREAM Act was about, but they went along with it because as always they tail after Democratic liberals, just as they did in organizing a “socialist contingent” for the pro-Democratic Party get-out-the-vote mobilization in Washington on October 2.

The Internationalist Clubs oppose the draft (military conscription) for the imperialist army, and have taken the lead in defending undocumented immigrant students, as we did in the fall of 2001 in initiating the several-hundred-strong mobilization against CUNY’s “war purge” of immigrant students. *We demand: full citizenship rights for all immigrants!*

Abolish the Board of Trustees! For Student-Teacher-Worker Control of CUNY!

Part of the revolutionary program of the CUNY Internationalist Clubs that sets us apart from those who just want to reform the system is our attitude toward the university administration. As we exposed in “Look Who’s Trusteeing at CUNY” (*Revolution* No. 5, September 2008), the CUNY Board of Trustees (BoT), like similar “public” governing boards nationwide, is a den of union-busters, McCarthyite witch-hunters, police-state enthusiasts and other ideological opponents of public education.

It is this BoT that has been campaigning longest and loudest to raise tuition at CUNY and eliminate remedial English and math programs, effectively driving out many poor, working-class, minority and immigrant students. Recently, CUNY Trustee and former FBI counter-intelligence agent Jeffrey Wiesenfeld signed onto the hate campaign

against the so-called “Ground Zero Mosque.” We internationalists demonstrated in defense of the proposed Islamic center against the Muslim-bashing bigots.

The CUNY Internationalist Clubs call for the BoT and its campus administrations to be abolished, and for CUNY to be run by democratic bodies of students, teachers and workers! Moreover, the private universities, those bastions of class and race privilege, should be expropriated and annexed to a free and universal public university system.

We noted: “[The BoT’s] composition corresponds to its function: to run CUNY in the interests, not of the people who work and study here, but of the parasitic elite of money-men, speculators, real-estate moguls and ruling-class politicians.” The reformist organizers of the October 7 rally carefully avoid the issue of who controls education, no doubt figuring it would cause problems with their desired Democratic Party “allies.”

In fact, one of the first things the International Socialist Organization (ISO) did in response to the current round of cuts and tuition hikes was to author a petition to Hunter College President Jennifer Raab, who was a political flack for Republican former mayor Rudolph Giuliani, calling on her to “come out against tuition hikes and support student activities in opposition to tuition hikes.” Like calling for a boss to support a union organizing drive.

Recently one prominent campus leftist, Frances Villar, a former NYC mayoral candidate for the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) and spokesman for its ANSWER Coalition, went a step further. Villar, a student bureaucrat at Lehman College who is on the University Student Senate (the tame “student government” owned by the CUNY administration) ran for the token student seat on the BoT. (Only USS delegates can vote in this election.)

No mention of socialism, though. Her election platform was full of calls for things like “university pride & parties,” including a CUNY-wide senior ball and “CUNY-wide masquerade ball.” More importantly, her program was pro-administration, pro-U.S. military, and pro-police. She promised to “work with” the anti-student, anti-union CUNY administration and to “help advocate and get the DREAM Act” being pushed by the Pentagon as a way to fill a “manpower gap” with immigrant youth (see above).

But that’s not all: Villar’s manifesto stated she would “Support our CUNY Public Safety Officer[s] in their struggles, because they are one of us!!!” Really??!! We’ve seen the CUNY cops “struggling” – like when they savagely beat Hostos Community College student leader Miguel Malo for the “crime” of holding up a sign during a campus protest against cuts to ESL classes in 2001. Or when they attacked parents with pepper spray at a graduation ceremony at Medgar Evers College in 2003.

No, the campus cops are not “one of us” – they’re one of them, the oppressors. CUNY “Public Safety” officers are armed with a staggering weapons stockpile with “100,000 rounds of ammunition, including at least 4,000 rounds of nine-millimeter hollow point bullets” which even the NYPD are not supposed

Drive Out ICE!

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than those not held for immigration reasons.

Moreover, ICE's own records reveal that nearly 79% of individuals deported nationally from October 2008 through June 2010 had no criminal record or were arrested for minor offenses like traffic violations (*New York Times*, 18 August 2010).

When news came out last fall about Paterson signing on to the "Secure Communities" there was a wave of concern among immigrants in New York City. The *Queens Chronicle* (14 October 2010) reported that at a packed meeting at PS 19 in Corona, "immigrants from Latin America and South Asia told stories about friends who were arrested and deported, at times torn away from their U.S.-born children."

There was even greater alarm when it was reported that ICE agents were already present in the infamous Rikers Island jail, despite NYC Executive Order 41 supposedly prohibiting cooperation with federal immigrant authorities. Through the Criminal Alien Program (CAP), agents were permitted to check the immigration status of inmates. According to the *New York Times* (10 November 2010), "Officers comb through lists of foreign-born inmates, then question, detain and deport about 3,200 of them a year." This particularly affects youth in New York City, as every year more than 13,000 young men age 18 and under pass through Rikers, the largest prison in the country.

Democratic politicians and liberal immigration reform groups held rallies at City Hall to protest the ominous Secure Communities program. At the City Council hearings, Democrats Christine Quinn, Jumaane Williams and Ydanis Rodríguez peppered the NYC corrections commissioner with questions about what ICE was doing at Rikers. But in order not to make trouble for Andrew Cuomo, the Democratic candidate for New York governor in 2010, who as NY attorney general was in charge of enforcing the anti-immigrant measure, they waited until *after* his election.

Even then, they introduced a *non-binding* resolution in the City Council that simply asks the governor to withdraw from the Secure Communities program. This resolution, which would have no effect even if it were passed, was promptly consigned by the Democratic Party-dominated Council to a committee where it has sat ever since.

The message is clear: in order to fight anti-immigrant programs like "Secure Communities," racist practices like the NYPD "stop and frisk" program and ICE police snatching immigrant youth from Rikers, *it*

to have (*Village Voice*, 5 May 1999). Anyone who's been to a campus protest should know which side the cops are on: they are the armed fist of the capitalist government and its school administrations whose job is to repress us if we fight for our rights.

PSL/ANSWER has its own experience with the police at student-faculty demonstrations: this group called the cops on a protest by CUNY Contingents Unite and students against tuition hikes, budget cuts and layoffs outside a BoT meeting at Baruch college in December 2008 (see "What Program to Fight the Crisis" in *Revolution* No. 6, April 2009).

The Internationalist Clubs demand: *All cops off campus! Abolish the Board of Trustees! For Student-Teacher-Worker Control of CUNY!*

is necessary to mobilize independently of and against both parties of capital.

Many voters in 2008 put their faith in the Democratic Party in hopes that Obama would enact immigration reform that would help undocumented immigrants gain citizenship. The CUNY Internationalist Clubs warned that no such legislation would be passed, not even the so-called DREAM Act, which wanted to use immigrant youth as cannon fodder for U.S. imperialist wars (see article, page 10). In fact, deportations have soared. In the fiscal year 2010, ICE reported 392,862 deportations, an increase of over 23,000 deportations compared with 2008.

Prisons are a big money maker in the U.S. (for the capitalists who own them), so are deportation centers! According to the Detention Watch Network, in 2009 the U.S. government detained approximately 380,000 people in immigration custody in about 350 facilities at an annual cost of more than \$1.7 billion. Writing in the *Daily News* (16 May 2008), columnist Albor Ruiz notes that there have been more deaths in ICE custody than at the Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo torture camps combined. *We demand that these concentration camps be shut down and that all the detainees be freed, now!*

For the Democrats and Republicans the Secure Communities Program is a bipartisan decision and their xenophobic vision of immigration "reform." Democrats and Republicans are capitalist parties and partners in the persecution of immigrants. We say break with the Democrats – Build a revolutionary workers party! Down with "Secure Communities" and the racist war on immigrant workers. Full citizenship rights for all immigrants!

As we protest in our schools and on the streets, students must look to join with the working class – including more than 15 million undocumented immigrants – *to defeat the U.S. imperialist terror-war abroad and its racist repression, union busting and trampling on democratic rights "at home," on the road to international socialist revolution.* ■

ICE Kidnaps Immigrant Youth from Rikers

While ICE gets free rein inside the jail, GED programs for youth inmates are being cut back. Last year the Island Academy and Horizon were shut down, to be replaced by a program with a much smaller enrollment and a sharply reduced teaching staff.

In Rikers, 90% of the inmates are black or Latino. Only 3% are charged with crimes of violence. Many are there because of drug laws which make a crime out of someone's private activity which is no business of the government. And quite a few are picked up in the NYPD's massive "stop and frisk" campaign under which youth are stopped on the street, harassed and humiliated by police for no reason other than their race – out of over half a million stops annually, 80% were black or Latino.

At a City Council hearing on November 10, city officials said that ICE agents were stationed at Rikers Island for the last 20 years, but they could cite no legal basis for the presence of *la migra*. And according to Manhattan Borough president Scott Stringer, under CAP the New York Police Department has for at least the last decade routinely "given the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency the names of all arrestees," no matter what they charged with or if they were convicted (*New York Times*, 4 April).

¡Fuera ICE!

sigue de la página 12

violaciones al reglamento de tráfico vehicular (*New York Times*, 18 de agosto de 2010).

Cuando apareció la noticia de que Paterson habría enrolado el estado de Nueva York en el programa de "Comunidades seguras" se desató una ola de preocupación entre los inmigrantes de la ciudad de Nueva York. El *Queens Chronicle* (14 de octubre de 2010) informó que en una reunión atestada de gente en una escuela pública de Corona, "inmigrantes de América Latina y Asia del Sur relataron sus historias de amigos que fueron detenidos y deportados, con frecuencia separados de sus hijos nacidos en EE.UU."

Hubo aún mayor revuelo cuando se informó de la presencia de agentes de la ICE en la infame prisión de Rikers Island, no obstante la Orden Ejecutiva No. 41 de la ciudad de Nueva York que supuestamente prohíbe la cooperación de empleados y oficiales municipales con las autoridades migratorias. A través del Programa de Criminales Extranjeros (CAP), se permitió a los agentes federales de la ICE averiguar el estado migratorio de los reclusos. Según el *New York Times* (10 de noviembre de 2010), "Los agentes rastrean listas de reclusos nacidos en el exterior, para luego interrogar, detener y deportar unos 3.200 de ellos cada año". Esto afecta particularmente a los jóvenes, debido a que cada año pasan más de 13 mil varones con edades de 18 años o menos por la mega cárcel de Rikers, la mayor de EE.UU.

Políticos demócratas y grupos liberales pro reforma migratoria montaron mítines frente a la alcaldía para protestar en contra del siniestro programa de Comunidades seguras. En audiencias del Consejo municipal, los demócratas Christine Quinn, Jumaane Williams y Ydanis Rodríguez inundaron a la comisionada del departamento de correcciones con preguntas sobre qué hacía la ICE en la cárcel de Rikers. Sin embargo, para evitar problemas para el candidato demócrata para gobernador de Nueva York Andrew Cuomo, quien en su función de procurador del estado tuvo el encargo de administrar la medida antiinmigrante, no hicieron su protesta hasta después de que fuera elegido.

Es más, lo que entonces hicieron fue introducir una resolución de aplicación "no obligatoria" en el Consejo municipal que tan solo pide al gobernador que retire al estado del programa Comunidades seguras. Dicha resolución, que quedaría sin efecto aún si fuera aprobada, fue asimismo asignada por el Consejo dominado por los demócratas a un comité donde ha sido archivado sin más secuelas.

El mensaje está claro: para luchar en contra de los programas antiinmigrantes como Comunidades seguras, para poner alto a prácticas racistas como el programa de "restrei y cateo" (*stop and frisk*) de la policía de Nueva York, y para impedir que la policía migratoria de la ICE rapte a jóvenes de Rikers, *es necesario movilizarse independientemente y en contra de los dos partidos del capital.*

Muchos votantes en las elecciones de 2008 depositaron sus esperanzas en el Partido Demócrata en espera de que Obama lograría una reforma migratoria que ayude a los inmigrantes indocumentados a lograr la ciudadanía. Los CUNY Internationalist Clubs advertimos que no se aprobaría ninguna legislación de esa índole, ni siquiera el DREAM Act que buscó utilizar a los jóvenes inmigrantes como carne de cañón para las guerras imperialistas estadounidenses (ver artículo,

página 10). De hecho, las deportaciones han subido a las nubes. Para el año fiscal 2010, la ICE informó de unas 392.862 deportaciones, un incremento de unos 23 mil deportaciones en comparación con el año 2008.

Las prisiones son un negocio jugoso en EE.UU. (para los capitalistas que son dueños de esas empresas), y así también los centros de deportaciones. Según la Detention Watch Network, en 2009 el gobierno estadounidense detuvo a aproximadamente 380.000 personas en custodia migratoria, encarceladas en unas 350 instalaciones a un costo anual de unos US\$1,7 mil millones. El columnista Albor Ruiz comentó (en el *Daily News* el 16 de mayo de 2008) que ha habido más muertos bajo custodia de la ICE que en los dos campos de tortura de Abu Ghraib y Guantánamo juntos. *¡Exigimos que se cierran de inmediato estos campos de concentración y que se ponga en libertad incondicional a todos los detenidos!*

Para los demócratas y republicanos, el programa de Comunidades seguras es una decisión bipartidista que expresa su concepción xenófoba de la "reforma migratoria". Los demócratas y republicanos son partidos capitalistas y socios en la persecución de los inmigrantes. Nosotros decimos: ¡Romper con los demócratas – Construyamos un partido obrero revolucionario! ¡Abajo con Comunidades seguras y la racista guerra en contra de los trabajadores inmigrantes! ¡Plenos derechos de ciudadanía para todos los inmigrantes!

Mientras protestamos en nuestras escuelas y en las calles, los estudiantes debemos buscar juntar nuestras fuerzas con la clase obrera – incluyendo a los más de 15 millones de trabajadores inmigrantes indocumentados – *para derrotar la guerra imperialista de terror de EE.UU. en el exterior y su represión racista, destrucción de los sindicatos y anulación de los derechos democráticos en el propio país, en el camino a la revolución socialista internacional.* ■

La ICE secuestra jóvenes de la cárcel de Rikers

Mientras le dan rienda suelta a la ICE dentro de la cárcel, se están recortando los programas de educación básica para los reclusos jóvenes. El año pasado cerraron a las escuelas Island Academy y Horizon, para reemplazarlos con un programa con bastante menos alumnos y el personal docente drásticamente reducido.

En la cárcel de Rikers un 90 por ciento de los reclusos son negros o latinos. Sólo el 3 por ciento son culpados de crímenes de violencia. Muchos están reclusos bajo las leyes contra la droga, que criminaliza la actividad privada de una persona en la que el gobierno no tiene derecho de inmiscuirse. Otros cuantos están ahí a raíz de la masiva campaña de "rastreo y cateo" de la NYPD, bajo la cual se detienen a jóvenes en la calle, hostigando e humillándolos, sólo a causa de su etnicidad: de más de medio millón de cateos cada año, el 80 por ciento son de negros o latinos.

En una audiencia del Consejo municipal del 10 de noviembre, funcionarios de la ciudad dijeron que los agentes de la ICE han estado en Rikers durante los últimos 20 años, pero no podían citar ninguna base jurídica para la presencia de *la migra*. Y según un comentario del presidente del condado de Manhattan Scott Stringer, bajo el CAP, la policía de Nueva York durante la última década, "ha suministrado a la ICE los nombres de todos los detenidos", no importa los cargos en su contra ni si fueron declarados culpables (*New York Times*, 4 de abril).

“Secure Communities” = War on Immigrant Communities

Drive Out ICE – Migra Go to Hell!

Full Citizenship Rights for All Immigrants!

Democrats, Republicans – Enemies of Immigrants! Build a Revolutionary Workers Party!

By Cristina and Fred

In May 2010, then-governor David Paterson quietly issued a “memorandum of understanding” signing New York state on to the Department of Homeland Security’s “Secure Communities Program.” This followed the signing of Arizona’s infamous Senate Bill 1070, a racial profiling law that allows police to arrest suspected “illegal” immigrants based on their appearance. Anyone who “looks Mexican” could be subject to arrest. The Arizona law was widely protested in New York and across the country. Now a similar law has been passed by Georgia.

The CUNY Internationalist Clubs and the Internationalist Group joined protests against the racist Arizona law. But while many on the left pointed the finger of blame exclusively at right-wing reactionaries, we warned that a far greater danger to undocumented immigrants is the federal government, which under Democrat Barack Obama is deporting far more people every year than Republican Bush ever did, and jails many more immigrants than notorious Arizona sheriff Joseph Arpaio.

“Secure Communities,” a nationwide program passed under the Bush administration and expanded under Obama, is part of the ongoing racist attack on immigrants. It establishes a system that allows ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security) and other federal agencies to work with local police to arrest and deport more undocumented immigrants. This has already led to an escalation of unjust incarcerations and deportations of immigrants living in the United States.



Internationalist photo

Internationalist contingent at New York City May Day march from Union Square, 1 May 2010.

Under this program, fingerprints and other biometric data of every person arrested by local or state police in cooperating districts are sent electronically to federal immigration authorities and get automatically run through an ICE database for comparison. Over 750 jurisdictions in 35 states have joined the program. This poses a huge

threat to immigrant communities and will inevitably break up families and separate children and parents.

While the feds whip up fears of “criminal aliens,” in fact those charged with violent crimes are *much less* likely to be deported than those accused of minor infractions. An October 2010 study of “New

York City Enforcement of Immigration Detainers” by Justice Strategies found that only one-third of non-citizens charged with A-1 felonies (the most serious) were put on hold by the ICE, over half of those held on class A misdemeanors were detained, for an average of two and one-half months longer
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“Comunidades seguras” = Guerra contra los inmigrantes

¡Fuera ICE! ¡La Migra al carajo!

¡Plenos derechos de ciudadanía para todos los inmigrantes!

Demócratas, republicanos enemigos de los inmigrantes, ¡Por un partido obrero revolucionario!

Por Cristina y Fred

En mayo de 2010, el entonces gobernador David Paterson emitió con sigilo un “memorando de acuerdo” para enrolar al estado de Nueva York en el programa “Comunidades seguras” del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS por sus siglas en inglés). Este acto siguió a la firma de la nefasta Ley SB 1070 de Arizona, que permitiría a la policía utilizar “perfiles raciales” en sus detenciones de personas sospechadas de ser inmigrantes “ilegales” por su fisonomía. Cualquiera que tenga “aspecto mexicano” está ahora sujeto a ser arrestado. Hubo protestas en Nueva York y alrededor del país en contra de la ley de Arizona. Ahora se ha aprobado una ley similar en el estado de Georgia.

Los CUNY Internationalist Clubs y el Grupo Internacionalista participaron en

las protestas en contra de la racista ley de Arizona. Sin embargo, mientras muchos izquierdistas culpaban exclusivamente a los reaccionarios derechistas por este atropello, nosotros advertimos que el gobierno federal bajo Barack Obama es un peligro mucho mayor para los inmigrantes indocumentados. El demócrata Obama deporta mucho más personas cada año de las que expulsó el republicano Bush, y ha detenido mucho más inmigrantes que el racista sheriff cazamigrante de Arizona, Joseph Arpaio.

“Comunidades seguras” es un programa nacional aprobado bajo la administración Bush que amplió Obama como parte del ataque racista en contra de los inmigrantes. Establece un sistema que permite al ICE (Agencia de Control de Aduanas e Inmigración del DHS) y otras agencias federales trabajar junto con la policía local para detener

y deportar más inmigrantes indocumentados. Esto ya ha producido una escalada de encarcelamientos injustos y deportaciones de inmigrantes residentes en Estados Unidos.

Bajo este programa, las huellas digitales y otros datos biométricos de cada persona detenida por la policía local o estatal en las entidades involucradas se envían por vía electrónica a las autoridades migratorias federales, que las comparan automáticamente con la base de datos de la ICE. Más de 750 entidades en 35 estados se han enrolado en el programa. Esto constituye una gran amenaza a las comunidades de inmigrantes e inevitablemente llevaría a la destrucción de familias y la separación de hijos y padres.

Mientras las autoridades federales azuzan el temor en torno a “criminales foráneos”, en realidad los culpados de crímenes de violencia se deportan con *mucho menor*

frecuencia que los acusados de infracciones menores. Un estudio de la organización Justice Strategies de octubre de 2010 sobre “La aplicación de órdenes de detención migratorias en la ciudad de Nueva York” encontró que sólo la tercera parte de no ciudadanos culpados de felonías A-1 (las más graves) fueron detenidos por instrucciones de la ICE, mientras más de la mitad de los acusados de delitos menores lo son, para una duración promedio de dos meses y medio más larga que los detenidos bajo acusaciones no relacionadas con su condición migratoria.

Además, los propios documentos de la ICE revelan que a escala nacional casi el 79 por ciento de los individuos deportados entre octubre de 2008 y junio de 2010 no tenían antecedentes criminales o cuando mucho habían sido detenidos por infracciones menores como
sigue en la página 11