



Haitian Workers and Youth Show Way to Fight Capitalist-Caused Hunger

“We’d rather die being shot down than of hunger” said one demonstrator as thousands marched to the presidential palace in Port-Au-Prince. A mass militant rebellion by Haitian workers and students fought MINUSTAH (the U.N. Occupation Force) and the local police. It began in the southern part of the country and spread all over. It forced President Préval to give a speech to grant some crumbs to the masses, and Prime Minister Alexis was forced to resign because of the crisis.

The rebellion reached its zenith on Tues. afternoon April 8 when thousands poured into the center of the capital from the impoverished neighborhoods of Bel Air, Cité Soleil, Martissant, Village de Dieu, waving tree branches, pounding on drums and chanting “down with the government” and “down with hunger.” Others defied police attempts to clear clogged roadways by dragging wrecked cars and other debris into intersections and setting fire to piles of tires.

Residents say the prices of rice, corn, beans, cooking oil and other staples are skyrocketing. The cost of rice and some other commodities has virtually doubled in six months. “Everything is so expensive, I think it is a plot between the government, the business leaders and the international community against the people,” protester Michel Presendieu said. “Don’t you see MINUSTAH shooting at the hungry people? And the government is not saying anything.”

The day before, university students at the School of Humanities burned tires and blocked the streets in support of the anti-hunger protests. At the School of Agronomy in Damien, north of the capital city, and also home of the Ministry of Agriculture, students blocked the entry of the minister into his office, took him out of his SUV and put him in a Tap-tap (crowded pick up trucks turned into minibuses) to return home and feels the misery of the people.

Thousands marched on Petionville and other neighborhoods looting the businesses blamed for the high cost of basic goods.

The reason behind the high cost of basic food and the misery of workers and their allies in Haiti and many other countries all over the world where there have been recent similar rebellions against hunger lie in imperialism and capitalism. The cost of maintaining MINUSTAH in Haiti is over \$500 million a year, enough to feed a good chunk of the starving people there.

The U.N. Occupation Force, left by the U.S., France and Canadian imperialists which invaded Haiti a few years ago and kicked out Jean Bertrand Aristide, has become the new Tontons Macoute, shooting people at random under the guise of “fighting drug gangs.” The “freedom and democracy” promised by the imperialists is only a living hell of fascist terror and hunger from Cité Soleil to Sadr City, Iraq.

Some in Haiti think that the solution is to bring back Aristide, but he won't make the profound revolutionary changes needed to end the misery of workers and youth. Some pro-immigrant groups in the U.S. are demanding that Haitian boat people arriving in the U.S. not be jailed and deported, but be given amnesty. But the U.S. immigration laws are so racist that this is just a dream.

May Day: Workers of the World Unite to Fight Capitalism!

This May Day 2008 the Haitian workers and youth showed with their militant rebellion the way to fight the capitalist-imperialist caused hunger. We in PLP salute them and say the best lesson this struggle can offer is the building a revolutionary communist movement to smash the cause of this hell: capitalism.

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WHAT WE FIGHT FOR

- ⊙ PLP fights to smash capitalism—wage slavery. While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions all over the world. The Soviet Union and China returned to capitalism because socialism maintained too many aspects of the profit system, like wages and divisions of labor.
- ⊙ Capitalism inevitably leads to wars. PLP organizes workers, students and soldiers to turn these wars into a revolution for communism. This fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat requires a mass Red Army led by the communist PLP.
- ⊙ Communism means working collectively to build a society where sharing is based on need. We will abolish work for wages, money and profit. Everyone will share society's benefits and burdens.
- ⊙ Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of race.
- ⊙ Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women workers.
- ⊙ Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ⊙ Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers.

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