

MAY DAY 2011: Unite and Fight for Jobs, Justice and Freedom! Power to the Workers!

Statement by the Revolutionary Organization of Labor, USA – May 1, 2011

May Day greetings as we link arms with workers around the world, from Egypt to the Philippines, from Greece to Honduras, from India to Mexico celebrating May Day – the great holiday of the international working class – in our common fight for decent jobs, affordable food, housing, a safe environment and against imperialist war and domination, capitalist exploitation and all forms of oppression.

On May 1, 1886, 200,000 U.S. workers struck for the eight-hour work day; 340,000 more demonstrated around the country for the same demand. In 1889, the Marxist International Socialist Congress (Second International) voted in Paris to designate May 1, 1890 as an international day of workers' protest. **Thus, May Day was “born in the USA” out of the workers' struggle for the eight hour day.**

Beginning May Day 2006, hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers in the U.S. rose up against increasing government attacks on themselves and their families **helping to revive May Day as a day of workers' action in the USA.** In 2008, immigrant workers' rights demonstrations were combined with a work stoppage by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union that shut down West Coast ports in opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This outstanding display of working class internationalism was supported by strike action of the Iraqi port workers!

May Day 2011 arrives with promising times for the world revolution. The Arab masses, from Tunisia and Egypt to Yemen and Bahrain, have brightened May Day for us all. Revolutionaries and freedom fighters the world over salute the **militant working class** of Tunisia and Egypt – the decisive force in the popular rebellions that successfully toppled their U.S. backed dictators, Ben Ali and Mubarak.

The workers' uprising in Wisconsin, centered around basic union rights of public sector workers, was undoubtedly inspired by the Tunisian and Egyptian masses coupled with the bold and blatant right-wing corporate assault on U.S. workers and their unions. This new found militant strength which U.S. workers have drawn in part from our Arab brothers and sisters underscore the international character of our struggle – the essence of May Day!

In the USA, the rich are getting richer and corporate profits continue to soar while millions remain unemployed or underemployed and homes are still being lost at a record pace. Hunger and poverty have increased dramatically and health care is under sharp attack.

Both the Republican and Democratic parties have proven their allegiance to the Wall Street rich. These “Republicrats” are not our friends or salvation. Both parties have spent trillions of dollars of taxpayer money for Wall Street bailouts and imperialist wars (for oil profits) on the peoples of Iraq, Afghanistan and now Libya. Both parties attack immigrant workers. Both parties are attacking unions and are cutting social benefits which our parents and grandparents fought hard to achieve. Medicare and Social Security are on the chopping block. With their “austerity” programs, “deficit reduction” schemes and massive tax breaks for the rich, the capitalists are trying to resolve the economic crisis on the backs of the working class and working poor. (GE, the largest U.S. corporation, made \$14 billion in profit last year, yet paid no taxes!)

“They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn, but without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn. ...” (Union song *Solidarity Forever*) Now more than ever, workers need to use their power – to organize, unite and fight for their rights and interests – young and old, men and women, workers of all nationalities, documented and undocumented – **to demand that WALL STREET PAY for the crisis they created.**



The monopoly capitalist system, based on private profit and greed, is corrupt to the core. It cannot meet the needs of the vast majority of humankind. By supporting the struggles of people from other lands against U.S. imperialist domination and coordinating our struggles in the U.S. with workers around the world against our common enemy, we can win! We can “bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old” – workers' power and socialism – the real solution to the economic crisis.

**Make Wall Street Pay –
Fund Jobs and Education, not War!**

**Oppose the Democratic and Republican Parties –
Fight for Workers' Power!**

**Workers of the World and Oppressed Peoples Unite!
Long Live the Internationalist Spirit of May Day!**

Last fall, the International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organizations (ICOR) consisting of approximately 30 organizations worldwide was formed. Its positive aim is coordinated international revolutionary activity, such as events on this May Day.

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