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The Rights of Immigrants – The Rights of All!

Today, all across the country, the immigrant rights movement is putting forward demands against anti-immigrant laws, for an end to discrimination and persecution of immigrants, and for full rights for immigrants.

This movement is part of the growing struggle of the American people against the reactionary, anti-social agenda of the monopoly capitalist class and the capitalist government. Immigrants and other minorities are feeling the full brunt of this offensive. In addition to trying to scapegoat immigrants and divide the people, the capitalist politicians have been passing laws to give legal sanction to the system of discrimination and persecution of immigrants. Recent laws deny immigrants the right to receive food stamps, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid and other vital social programs. In addition, the government is strengthening its repressive apparatus in immigrant communities all across the country and carrying out a program of arbitrary harassment, violence and persecution.

The struggle for immigrant rights is especially important at this time. Today, in the name of "amnesty" or an "earned path" to citizenship, the capitalists are preparing to legalize a caste system which reduces millions of immigrant workers to the status of indentured servants. According to the "bi-partisan Gang of 8" bill recently passed in the Senate and supported by Obama, millions of workers who have been living and working in the U.S. for years – making their lives and building our coun-

try – would get the "privilege" of working continuously for 10 more years in order to apply for a "green card."

We say that immigrant workers do not have "to earn" citizenship or as Obama has said repeatedly: "pay a debt to society." They are part and parcel of this country and it is their labor which has helped build our modern economy. The problem is not that immigrants or minorities are "breaking the law" or "lack American values," the problem is that the economic and political conditions im-

posed on the people are designed to deprive immigrants and the oppressed minorities of their fundamental human rights. These rights include the equality of all individuals and the collective rights and equality of all nationalities.

So too, Obama and his "bi-partisan gang" in Congress are pushing for an expanded "guest worker" program to provide a constant stream of cheap labor for the capitalists in such sectors as agriculture, hotels, meatpacking, nurs-

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Socialism – Goal of the Working Class

Every day life itself is more and more forcefully presenting our country with the question: capitalism or socialism? The intensifying exploitation of the working class as well as the entire reactionary agenda which monopoly capital and the capitalist state are imposing on our country are the inevitable product of the unresolvable and intensifying contradictions of capitalism.

What is the way out?

The Workers Party says that socialism is the way out. The necessity for socialism arises, in the first place, from the struggle of the working class for emancipation from capitalist wage-slavery. In addition, it is only through socialism that our country can overcome the anarchy and crises of capitalism and bring the social relations between human beings in harmony with the pro-

ductive forces and the level of social development. The change from capitalism to socialism is absolutely necessary in order to open the way for the all-around progress of our country.

Only Socialism Can Eliminate the Exploitation of the Working Class

From its very emergence, the working class has been locked in an all-sided struggle against capitalist exploitation and the capitalist class. Just to maintain their physical existence, the workers are forced to fight the capitalists over the issues of wages, hours of work, working conditions and so forth. In addition, the working class wages continual struggles in the political sphere, asserting its rights in opposition to and struggle against the capitalist class and capitalist state. The

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ing homes, etc. Guest workers would be allowed in the country only for limited periods, denied the rights of citizens and subjected to the worse working and living conditions. In short, Obama and company look on immigrants not as human beings with inalienable rights but as an "economic factor" for increasing the profits of U.S. capitalism – as meat in the market to be superexploited. Today, as part of its program of "globalization," U.S. imperialism is not only plundering other countries, but – after despoiling other economies and depriving people of their livelihoods – imperialism seeks to bring the disenfranchised foreign workers here to be at the beck and call of the U.S. capitalists.

The capitalist class and its little helpers, the revisionists and opportunist parties, hope to use Obama's bi-partisan immigration reform to cool down the immigrant rights struggle and to deflect the fire of that struggle away from the capitalist class and its Republican and Democratic parties. The PR campaign for Obama's bi-partisan immigration reform seeks to create the illusion that the capitalist class itself is seeking to "reform" the very system of discrimination and persecution against immigrants which insures its superprofits. The capitalist and opportunist political parties want to put the "call" to get behind Obama's bi-partisan "comprehensive immigration reform" bill at the center of the immigrant rights movement in the hopes of turning the movement onto the dead-end of congressional lobbying and electioneering.

At the same time, the capitalist class is using Obama's bi-partisan immigration reform and campaign of anti-immigrant hysteria to further militarize the country, further integrate federal and local policing powers and

to impose a national ID system in order to better control the population. The struggle for immigrant rights is in the forefront of the fight against the police state which the capitalists are trying to impose. The people are fighting for a truly modern America which recognizes that the rights of one are inseparable from the rights of all.

It is no coincidence that the Democratic and Republican politicians have resorted to an openly reactionary program at this time. As the all-sided crisis of capitalism deepens, the oppressed minority peoples and immigrants are especially put under the gun. More over, the anti-immigrant and racist propaganda is used to cover over the fact that the government and the capitalist class are attacking the rights of all Americans. The capital-

ist class, ignoring the demand of the times, refuses to go forward and create a society which guarantees, in practice, equal rights and equal responsibilities for everyone. Rather it seeks to put everything in the country at the disposal of big business and the so-called "free market" and deny that the people have any rights whatsoever.

It is the working class and broad masses of American people who must carry through the democratic renewal of our country in order to defeat the offensive of the capitalists and fulfill the promise of democracy by creating a society based on equal economic and political rights for all. The struggle against the anti-immigrant and racist politics of the capitalist state is an inseparable part of this struggle to secure the rights of all.

July 2nd Illegal and Hostile Actions Singled Out Bolivia

The following article is reprinted from The Anti-Imperialist News Service, July 7, 2013.

Throughout Latin America and the world, governments and peoples are denouncing the illegal and hostile actions of July 2nd which constituted a flagrant violation of the sovereign rights of the Bolivian people and disrupted the air travel of Bolivian President Evo Morales across Europe.

On July 2, in violation of international law and all the elementary norms and standards of relations between states, President Morales' airplane was denied access to the airspace of France, Italy, Portugal and Spain. As a result the plane was forced to re-route to Vienna at which time the Austrian authorities proclaimed the

"right" to search the plane for U.S. political refugee Edward Snowden. The Bolivian president and his companions were forced to wait for 13 hours before continuing their flight to Bolivia.

These grave and unprecedented provocations are components of the Austrian, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish governments' policies of cooperating with the U.S. government in its illegal international hunt after a political refugee. Together with the U.S., these countries are not only guilty of tearing down the edifice of international law with respect to the rights of political refugees and the elementary norms of relations between states, but also of violating the sovereign rights of the Bolivian people.

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workers have won many victories in their economic and political battles but still the fundamental problem remains unresolved and the same issues come up again and again. One day the workers are able to establish union organizations and gain higher wages; but the next day, the capitalists are able to smash the union and cut wages. The overwhelming majority of the workers still live in a state of job and economic insecurity. Similarly, these days it is easy to see that such social and political victories as workers gained over decades of struggle are again under attack as the capitalist government keeps stripping away vital social programs, etc. and so forth. The root of the problem is precisely the capitalist system which, at its very foundation, is based on the exploitation of wage-labor. Under capitalism, society's means of production (the tools used to transform nature and satisfy the needs of human beings) are owned privately by a tiny percentage of the population. Thus the working class – the class whose labor produces all new values – is separated from the implements of labor and the workers have no way to secure a livelihood except by selling their labor-power, day in and day out, to the capitalist owners. The capitalists in turn exploit the labor of the workers, returning in wages only a small fraction of the new values created by the workers. Under capitalism, the living human labor of the workers is looked upon solely as a means for enriching the capitalist owners.

Capitalist private ownership of the

means of production rivets the workers to the capitalist as firmly as the slave was riveted to the master. Capitalism recognizes the worker only as a seller of labor-power, only as a beast to be exploited. Under capitalism, all the human rights of the worker are denied. He/she lives or dies according to the "free market" system – that is according to the needs of capital.

Thus the working class can only emancipate itself by abolishing the capitalist system based on private ownership of the means of production. Socialism begins with the recognition that the means of production are in fact not private but social property. Not only are the tools of society the accumulated product of generations of labor, they can only be set in motion and used through the co-operative, division of labor amongst the entire working class. Thus, socialism does nothing more than recognize the already-existing social character of the productive forces, stripping them of their class character – that is stripping the tiny minority of capitalist owners of the "right" to monopolize the economic lifeline of society and of the "right" to exploit the labor of the workers. By turning the means of production into the common, social property of the whole society, socialism at once eliminates the exploitation of the workers and creates the foundations for genuine social, economic and political equality.

Socialism Will Eliminate the Anarchy and Crises of Capitalism, Opening the Path for the Progress of Our Country

The contradiction between the social character of the productive forces and capitalist private ownership of the means of production is at the root of the all-sided and unresolvable crises facing our country.

Anyone who thinks even for a

minute about the enormous productive capacity of our country cannot but ask: why is a country with such modern means of production unable to guarantee the economic rights and well-being of the masses of people? Why is the curse of unemployment and the plague of falling wages and living standards undermining the lives of tens of millions? Why, in a country with such modern medical facilities, do tens of millions of people go without needed medical care? Why has economic growth been stagnating for years and why is the government – in one of the richest country's of the world – always crying poverty?

The answer comes almost as soon as the questions are posed. It is the capitalist system which is holding back the vast productive forces at the disposal of our country; it is the capitalist system which is denying the economic rights of the people and imposing an ever-growing burden of exploitation and poverty on them. The monopoly capitalist system in the U.S. has brought to the bursting point the basic contradiction between the socialized productive forces and private capitalist ownership. Through generations of labor the American working class has created modern means of production with an enormous productive capacity. Thousands of hands work as one within a single factory while in the economy as a whole a social division of labor amongst 120 million workers supplies our country with everything from computers, to x-ray machines to food. Yet these modern means of production – which can only be set in motion and utilized through the cooperative socialized labor of the whole working class – are owned by a tiny class of monopoly capitalists. Today, in our country, the concentration and centralization of the ownership has reached unprecedented proportions. Five hundred corporations ac-

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count for more than 2/3rds of the country's gross domestic product; a dozen big bankers control 3 trillion dollars in capital, dominating the economic lifeline of the entire country. In short, a few thousands capitalist billionaires monopolize the economy, constituting a real financial oligarchy which commands the economic life of 250 million people.

The backwardness of the capitalist social relations is sharply reflected in the fact that these days the monopoly capitalist class is actively engaged in destroying the productive capacity of our country.

Monopoly capitalism has entered a period of general and permanent crisis. For example, during the 1980's and 90's even during the periods of economic expansion, the standard of living of the people continued to fall. Wages have dropped by 20% while the plagues of unemployment and underemployment keep growing. Corporate downsizing and restructuring continue in every sector of the economy, destroying millions of jobs. While these jobs are destroyed, the vast majority of new jobs which are created are part-time or temporary jobs which do not even come close to paying a living wage. In addition, capitalist restructuring is literally destroying the productive forces of our country. For example since 1980 30% of our country's steel capacity has been wiped out and along with it the jobs of hundreds of thousands of steelworkers; in oil refining, capacity was also reduced by 30%, while 60,000 jobs were wiped out; and so on and so on.

The necessity for socialism is arising from every pore and cell of our society. The most fundamental fact about our country is that everywhere the social character of our society is forcing itself to the surface, demanding recognition but the capitalist system is blocking the way forward. It is the capitalist

system which is denying tens of millions the right to secure a livelihood. It is the system of private property in the means of production which exploits human labor and creativity and turns society into an arena in which the rich live off the labor of the poor. It is the system of private property in the means of production which refuses to plan for the health of the population and instead produces health care as a commodity available on the basis of who has the most money. It is the capitalist system which is poisoning the air we breathe and the water we drink. Even though modern science is able to know the effect of human action on nature, capitalism – based on the anarchy of production – willfully destroys the natural environment in the pursuit of maximum profit.

Socialism, at once, resolves the basic contradiction of capitalism, liberating the working class from capitalist wage-slavery and opening the way for the unfettered, continuous development of the productive forces on the basis of constantly improving the well-being of the people.

Socialism recognizes the real social character of the means of production. It eliminates capitalist private ownership of the factories, mines, and other means of production, and recognizes these as the common property of the entire society. Under socialism the livelihoods of the workers will no longer be dependent on the capitalists or the ups and downs of the business cycle. Economic insecurity will become a thing of the past as a socialist America will guarantee everyone a job or an income commensurate with our country's high level of development. No longer will the workers be exploited and their surplus labor appropriated by the capitalists as profit. Rather, in a socialist America, the entire surplus over and above what is

returned to workers directly in the form of wages, will be at the disposal of society as a whole and used, on the basis of a democratically worked out plan, to guarantee both the further development of the economy as well as such inalienable rights of the people as the right to universal and free medical care, to the best possible education, to secure pensions and so forth. It is obvious that our country has at its disposal all the means necessary to insure the unprecedented economic development and the well-being of the people.

All that is required is for the social relations of society to be brought into harmony with the existing level of development of productive forces, for the people to recognize the social character of economic and social life and carry through the re-reorganization of society on that basis.

Socialism will insure uninterrupted economic development. Socialism will eliminate the anarchy of capitalism and insure planned economic development with the aim of constantly increasing the material and cultural well-being of the people. By placing the people, with the working class in the forefront, in control of the productive forces, socialism will truly humanize society, putting people at the center, not only as producers but as decision-makers and conscious creators of society. Socialism will create the basis for realizing the age-old aspirations of the masses to create a society without class privilege or class oppression, a society which genuinely guarantees equal economic, political and social rights for all human beings. At the same time, socialism will enable human society to harmonize its relationship with nature and protect and enhance the natural environment which is necessary for the continued development of human society.

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