

# ONLY A MASSIVE, UNITED, PROLONGED GENERAL STRIKE CAN DEFEAT THE ATTACKS ON STUDENTS AND WORKERS!

**Underfunded programs; overcrowded classrooms; cuts in music, art, sports, and classes; substandard test scores; poor graduation rates; ever-increasing costs for higher education, cuts in financial aid; and no hope of good jobs after school! That's all decaying capitalism has to offer today's students.**

It has become unprofitable to provide well-paid jobs in the so-called "first world." So today we have 10% official unemployment in California, and more like 20% if you include all those not counted. In the Black and Latino communities this number goes up over 25%. California has 167,000 people in prison. Prisoners cost \$47,000 a year, yet only \$7,500 is spent annually for each student. That is \$2,000 less than the average spent on education around the nation. What are capitalist society's priorities? For the corporate bosses and their bought-and-paid-for-politicians, it is more important to keep the people silenced in prisons than it is to give public schools and colleges the resources they need to deliver quality education to the masses.

The bosses and their politicians in Washington and Sacramento, from Obama on down to the local school board level, are united trying to save the bankers and profiteers on Wall Street at the expense of working people and the poor. Congress came up with trillions of dollars to bail out the banks and fund imperialist wars, yet there is no money to keep teachers in the classrooms and provide quality education. When it comes to the education of the working class and poor youth, the plutocrats will only spend the minimum they can get away with, so as not to cut into their profits. Our youth have become expendable to the parasitic bosses and their lackey politicians. And now they are planning to privatize education, so it will give them yet another opportunity to make a profit.

Meanwhile, the union leaders and fake socialists do their best to keep the working class tied to the Democrats. They appeal to the bosses' courts and legislators for incremental change and reforms, instead of fighting to build an independent party that truly represents workers. They tell us we can win by passing the California Democracy Act or electing Jerry Brown. But budget reform and a different governor will not make a difference. Brown will do what his capitalist masters tell him to do. This is how the union bureaucrats maintain workers' illusions, while the Democrats usurp the movement and keep it from challenging the capitalists for real power.

For far too long, our leaders—union bureaucrats and politicians alike—have choreographed a dance of conciliation and concessions, to place the burden of the collapse of the capitalist system on the backs of workers, students and the poor. The last thing these leaders want to see is the rank and file of labor uniting with students, forming inter-union action committees, and organizing across job sites and job categories. The philosophy of business unionism is practiced by the entire trade union leadership of the AFL-CIO and the Change to Win coalition. They peddle concessions to the workers while collecting our dues, bloating a parasitic bureaucracy, and directing our energy into political action that supports the bosses' political parties, mainly the Democrats.

Instead of continuing this dead-end, class collaborationist policy, our unions' resources should be used to organize massive strike actions, occupy worksites, smash the Taft-Hartley barrier to sympathy strikes, and build our own fighting workers' party—a party that can lead the struggle for a workers' government with a program that serves the interests of the working class.

The March 4 Day of Action is a step in the right direction. But a series of **occasional** mass demonstrations and "wannabe strikes" will not be enough to force the capitalists to fund public education. It will take **massive sustained general strike action** by public and private workers, along with students and the unemployed, to win our demands. Even concessions are not to be expected except as a last ditch attempt by the bosses to prevent the working class from seizing power. Only an **internationalist fighting workers' party** that is based on democratically run organizations of workers and the oppressed, and that links workers across national borders, can take power from the multinational megacorporations and their puppet imperialist politicians, and in turn build an economy based on **production for peoples' needs, not for profit**—in other words, socialism.

**HUMANIST WORKERS FOR REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM**

March 4, 2010 • [www.HumanistsForRevolutionarySocialism.org](http://www.HumanistsForRevolutionarySocialism.org) • [hw4rs@yahoo.com](mailto:hw4rs@yahoo.com) • Labor Donated

# **We need to fight for our demands by forging independent, democratic mass organizations to mobilize the working class, students and the oppressed**

- 1. Full Employment at prevailing union rates for all.** To assure full employment, thirty hours of work for forty hours' pay must be implemented to spread the available work.
- 2. Failing industries (both financial and industrial) must be taken over (nationalized) under workers' control,** without compensation to their owners, to provide adequate access to credit and to get the wheels of industry rolling again.
- 3. STOP LAYOFFS! When the bosses declare layoffs or attempt to close down a workplace, workers should occupy the factories and the workplaces and establish workers' control.**
- 4. Housing is a right! Stop all foreclosures and evictions.** Move the homeless and those in overcrowded housing into housing vacated by foreclosures and the falling real estate market.
- 5. Quality universal public education at no charge from daycare and pre-school through graduate school and adult education.** For teacher, student, parent, staff, and working class community control of the schools, to assure quality education instead of the mis-education, over-testing, and ruling class propaganda that currently plague our public schools. Drive the CIA, NSA, ROTC and Military recruiters off campus.
- 6. Quality free universal health care at no charge from prenatal to the grave** is long overdue. To achieve this goal, all medical institutions must be placed under the control of their workers (doctors, nurses, staff), with community/patient participation. Health care for all, not for profit!
- 7. End attacks on undocumented workers!** End the ICE raids! Free all detained undocumented workers! Citizenship rights for all undocumented workers! Immigrant youth deserve equal educational resources.
- 8. Defeat US forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan.** Down with imperialist oppression! Fighting to defeat imperialist militarism leads to victory for workers and the oppressed in the world! 130 military bases around the world do not protect working people; they are there to protect the investments of the corporations, bankers and speculators. Drive US forces out of foreign bases!
- 9. We cannot count on Obama the capitalists or their political parties to clean up the environment and prevent catastrophic climate change.** For them, profit always comes before the environment and the needs of the workers. But the time to stop climate change is running out. We must fight for workers' control of industry in order to transform the current, outmoded technology of industrial production and fossil fuel based energy sources to totally green and sustainable technology.
- 10. Break with the Democrats. No cross-class coalitions with Democrats and pro-capitalist Greens.** Fight for the political independence of the working class! We need to build a fighting workers'/labor party based on the workers and on democratically run unions and organizations of the oppressed and the unemployed.
- 11. For a workers' government that can and will implement and defend all these transitional demands.** To accomplish these goals, working people need their own government. If we allow the capitalists to control the state via their government, they will continue to attack and ultimately destroy all our social gains. To stop the attacks on our gains and the oppressed, we need workers' power based on democratic councils of workers, students, the unemployed, and the rank-and-file of the military.

**HUMANIST WORKERS FOR REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM**

March 4, 2010 • [www.HumanistsForRevolutionarySocialism.org](http://www.HumanistsForRevolutionarySocialism.org) • hw4rs@yahoo.com • Labor Donated