

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Victory of the Tower Hamlets FE Teachers

Teaching staff at Tower Hamlets FE College have won a victory in their 21-day strike action against compulsory redundancies. They returned to work some days ago having not only

stopped all compulsory redundancies in admin, support and youth work, but having saved over 300 Esol (English for speakers of other languages) places, stopped cuts to A level hours, and saved the

mentorship scheme that provides learning mentors for vital one-to-one support with over 700 young people. *Workers' Weekly* warmly congratulates the Tower Hamlets strikers on their

victory. While it is necessary to remain vigilant that the agreement worked out between the UCU (University and College Union) and the College management at ACAS

Continued on page 3

LONG LIVE THE HONDURAN PEOPLE AND THEIR RESISTANCE!



March on Brazilian embassy in Tegucigalpa, September 27, 2009, day 91 of the coup

Workers' Weekly salutes the heroic resistance of the Honduran people which has now won another victory with the return of their constitutional president Manuel Zelaya, 86 days after being forced out of the

country in a military coup.

We denounce the repression of the resistance, and the role of the reactionary forces in the US and elsewhere in support of the coup and call on the working class and people to go all out to support the

struggle of the Honduran people. The coup must be defeated once and for all and new arrangements established which will permit the people to exercise control over their own affairs, including defending the peoples of the

region from foreign interference.

From the first day of the coup, the coup plotters underestimated the scope, intensity and

Continued on page 3

Commentary

No to the G-20 and its So-Called Solutions

THE G-20 NATIONS HELD THEIR SUMMIT in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from September 24-25. It is the second such

summit for the organisation in 2009, following the April 2 one in London.

The G-20, G-8, G-7, G-2 and even G-14 are calculated diversions organised by the US, European Union and Japan. They are organisations and meetings to keep the more powerful developing countries such as China, India and Brazil and smaller developed capitalist countries such as Argentina and many in Europe firmly captured within the imperialist system of states led by the US. All the actions and proposals coming from the various groupings of the imperialists are meant "to assure a sound and

Continued on page 4

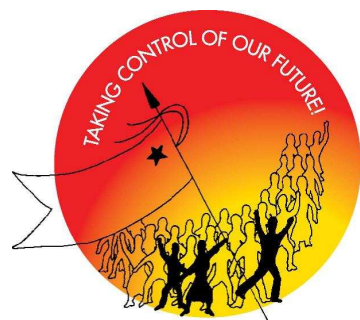
[inside]

Student Loans Company leaves thousands stranded 2

Long live the Honduran people and their resistance! 3

No to the G20 and its so-called solutions 4

Published by RCPB(ML)
170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA
Registered as a newspaper
Printed by Millennium Press



YOUTH+ STUDENT

page of the
**Workers'
Weekly
Youth Group**

Increased Poverty, Foreclosures, Eco-Destruction and War

We're not dreaming of bailouts for
Corporations, or 1 Trillion dollars for
the IMF and World Bank.
We're dreaming of a better world.
www.resist620.org



Student Loans Company Leaves Thousands Stranded

Delays in processing student grants and loans have left thousands of new students in England without the money they need to start their university courses. Many students are concerned that they will not receive their funds before the start of term, and have not been able to obtain further information.

This is the first year that tuition fee loans, maintenance grants and maintenance loans have been processed by Student Finance England, which is administered by the Student Loans Company (SLC).

It was recently revealed that the SLC was too understaffed to deal with the number of applications, leading to the current crisis. Pam Tatlow, chief executive of the Million+ group of new universities, said that "the additional demand from students starting in 2009 can hardly be a surprise and the SLC should have staffed up to meet the expectations of both students and universities".

The SLC is a non-departmental public body of the government, established in 1990 for the provision of student finance, initially lending £190m. According to the SLC's provisional figures, £2.9bn was lent in the financial year 2005/06. There was approximately £16bn of outstanding debt in 2007.

The government began to sell off portions of student debt in 1998 to private companies, such as Finance for Higher Education, formed by Greenwich NatWest, and Honours Student Loans

Company, a trading name of Honours Trustee Limited, which was set up by a consortium of Deutsche Bank AG and the Nationwide Building Society. The SLC serves as a central point in a parasitic arrangement from which student debt can be packaged off to such private companies in lucrative deals. Another wave of sell-offs is currently under consideration, fraudulently presented as "raising money" for the government. These sales themselves have resulted in confusion and mishandling in a number of cases.

There is an alternative

The government must directly intervene to ensure that all students get their loans in full and on time. This is a critical point in student funding, where the SLC and its parasitic arrangements lie exposed, forcing the issue of which side the government will take: to remain silent, or to intervene in favour of the students? Students should hold the government to account over this issue and keep up the pressure. Moreover, they should take up politics themselves by discussing the situation and the need for an alternative based on recognising that education is a right, not a privilege.

Student loans were originally introduced to supplement the inadequate maintenance grant. After grants were abolished in 1998, loans became the sole means of student funding outside of personal financing or family support,

until replaced by the current complex system of fees, grants and loans. The argument all along the line was that students should pay for the privilege of a university education. The current fiasco exposes the reality that student loans were brought in to further entrench the interests of big business that have seen rich and easy pickings, without regard for the consequences for students. The abolishing of the grant and introduction of tuition fees in 1998 was a key moment when the government cast aside any recognition that education is a right and came down on the side of class privilege and monopoly right.

There is an alternative: to take the rights of all to education as the starting-point. As a social need, education ought to have a priority claim on the economy, and access must not be based on any individual consideration such as personal or family wealth. Money should simply not be part of the equation in deciding whether to go to university. Students should organise discussion to elaborate this alternative in the course of demanding what is owed to them from the SLC, working out proposals for the way forward that will eliminate the need for loans altogether. By participating in politics through mobilising support for the alternative, students will firmly place their agenda at the centre of the political arena, reducing the space that the anti-social agenda of plundering student welfare has to manoeuvre.

John Buckle Centre



Centre for communism and communist and
progressive literature from Britain and
around the world

Please contact us by phone or
email before visiting.

E-mail: jbbooks@btconnect.com

170 WANDSWORTH ROAD, LONDON SW8 2LA

Tel: 020 7627 0599

Workers' Weekly

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Website: www.rcpbml.org.uk

October 3, 2009 Volume 39, Number 13

Subscription rates within Britain (including p&p): 4 issues - £3.15, 26 issues - £19.95, Yearly - £36.95.
For any subscription applications from abroad or for bulk subscriptions, please contact *Workers' Weekly* directly.
Cheques should be made payable to 'RCPB(ML)' and sent to 170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA.

LONG LIVE THE HONDURAN PEOPLE AND THEIR RESISTANCE!



Continued from page 1

organisation of the resistance, as well as the determination internationally to uphold the rule of law. On September 21, the coup forces were caught off guard with the reappearance of President Zelaya in Honduras at the Brazilian embassy in Tegucigalpa. After three months of being unable to present an argument to legitimise their regime or to overcome the people's rejection of their illegitimate authority, the coup forces are taking revenge on the people. They are using military force and indefinite curfews, laying siege to the Brazilian embassy and surrounding it with heavily armed forces, cutting off the water and electricity. The peoples of Latin America have a great collective experience of fighting against such reactionary arrangements of foreign intervention and military coups and will never permit them to take hold again.

At the same time as the coup plotters are trying to impose anti-democratic arrangements, so too are reactionary US forces trying to establish a new definition of democracy and rule of law by trying to give legitimacy to the actions of the gang which carried out the coup. The Honduran military forces in service of the coup have already killed two people outside the Brazilian embassy and coup president Robert Micheletti continues to refuse meaningful

dialogue. According to the US administration, there is already a natural order and democracy in place: rule by Honduran oligarchs. Zelaya and his recognition of the people's need to be empowered through a constituent assembly would have upset this order where those who reject the primacy of domestic and foreign monopolies over the people's needs might have elected someone who would represent their own interests. Thus, according to such forces, corrective measures such as the coup and the subsequent repression were a necessary evil: while it may not have been right for the coup plotters to remove Zelaya, the action was both understandable and justifiable. It is in this context that the San José Accord, which seeks to legitimise the coup by making Zelaya's restoration contingent on limiting his mandate, continues to be promoted even though Zelaya has repudiated it. These attempts to dictate what is democratic or undemocratic, constitutional or unconstitutional based on circumscribing the people's participation in decision-making or trying to suggest that a benevolent dictatorship of the oligarchs is actually democracy must not pass!

October 2 has been an International Day of Solidarity with the Honduran people against the State Coup and for the restitution of democracy and the Constituent Assembly called for by organisations and social

Victory of the Tower Hamlets FE Teachers

Continued from page 1

is actually implemented by the college, the firm stand of the lecturers and the support they have received from their colleagues has ensured the success of their struggle. It was a struggle in favour of a pro-social society and for the right to education, and for the security of all.

The struggle also strengthened the union and was an inspiration to many other FE lecturers, and was an example of collective action and decision-making. This is important, because the anti-social offensive is set to intensify further, and all sections of society must strengthen their organisations and get further organised. The Tower Hamlets strikers were able to make a contribution to elaborating among the people why such actions are not for narrow ends but are in defence of the rights of all, and in particular for the right of the people to an education that serves their needs and enables them to fully participate in society. As such, the strike was a stepping stone to the consciousness that it is the people organised around their claims on society who must become the decision-makers in

society as a whole.

The Tower Hamlets FE teachers are well aware that while they have achieved success in their important battle, the struggle to defend education against the anti-social offensive, especially in the present conditions of the financial crisis, is a campaign which begins again. This is all the more so since the fight is not simply against the management of an individual college, but against a government policy dictated by the requirements of big business and enforced against the people's will. The experience gained in this battle is an important foundation in the further struggles. This is also important because the anti-social offensive attacks also the workers' organisations and the people's consciousness and thinking, and the antidote to this is the conscious participation of all in the issues that affect their lives and their ability to have control over them.

The workers' and people's movements for their rights can begin from this new baseline and develop from it step by step, and these movements will also give rise to their own worker and people's politicians.

Warm congratulations to the Tower Hamlets staff!

movements, members of regional and global campaigns and networks. A First International Meeting against the State Coup and for the Constituent Assembly

is also to be held from October 8-10 in Tegucigalpa.

Long Live the Honduran People and Their Resistance! Honduras Is Not Alone!



No to the G-20 and its So-Called Solutions

Continued from page 1

sustainable recovery from the global financial and economic crisis" by putting the burden on the working class and weaker countries.

These imperialist groupings have no interest whatsoever in taking actions that favour the working class and oppressed peoples of the world who are now suffering ever greater hardships as a result of the economic crisis. The imperialist system of states exists to exploit its own working classes and the peoples of all those countries ensnared within its grasp. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the escalating one against Pakistan, the unjust terms of trade and perpetual indebtedness of the most oppressed countries are aspects of its agenda to keep the peoples enslaved with neither the power nor material resources to solve the social and economic problems pounding their societies.

Determined resistance

Resistance at the G-20 took a firm stand against the wrecking in the US and worldwide and for a world that eliminates the rich and their unjust wars and exploitation and puts the rights of the people at centre-stage.

The demonstrations and denunciations against the G-20 Summit expressed that the imperialist system of states has had its day. This system has proved with its many failures, constant wars and inability to solve the world's social and economic problems that it is unfit to govern anywhere and must be replaced by workers and their allies governing themselves and by the peoples of the world finding their own way forward without interference. It is out of the rejection and overthrow of the imperialist system of states and its agenda of war, exploitation and interference in the affairs of others that a new and just world will emerge. The working class and its



Protests against the G20 talks held at the Bank of England on April 1, 2009

communist leadership have the social responsibility to lead in practice this rejection of the imperialist system of states and all its military, economic and political organisations and prepare conditions for a pro-social alternative.

Anglo-US imperialism is leading the world into chaos and ruin with its programme to rescue its domination of the world through war and by passing the burden of the economic crisis onto the backs of its own working class and the peoples and countries of the world.

Workers' movement rising

These constant meetings of the imperialist groupings, which the US dominates, are meant to ensure no competitor emerges to challenge its superpower status and to present an image of being all-powerful with no alternative even possible to imagine. But that is illusory and against the progressive flow of humanity. The working class and peoples around the world are rising to establish their nation-building projects and vest sovereignty in the people in opposition to the imperialist system of states. The peoples everywhere simply refuse to stop resisting and fighting for their rights, which are theirs by virtue of being human. The working class in the developed capitalist countries have all re-established their communist parties and are strengthening their resistance to the anti-social offensive and preparing the subjective conditions for a pro-social alternative. Workers should not be divert-



Demonstration in New York as Latin American leaders speaking at UN demanded Zelaya's return to office

ed from their line of march by the appearance of strength and arrogance and flowery words of this or that grouping or spokesperson of the imperialists.

This arrogance is all show, bombast and empty rhetoric meant to pacify workers and their leadership. In this context, the British ruling elite, as represented by Gordon Brown at the G-20, has been once again posing as the world's saviour from economic crisis and disaster. But this elite too has had its day and must go, and Brown's "new system of international economic co-operation" is sheer fantasy designed vainly to convince the workers' and people's movements that the imperialist system is sustainable and can meet the needs of the working class and people. In opposition, workers and their allies must unite in their own groupings both at home and internationally, and discuss and develop their own agenda and programmes to build an alternative to the imperialist system of

states. The working class movement must forge ahead on its line of march to position themselves as the supreme power, give their rights a modern constitutional guarantee and solve the problems of a socialised economy and a modern way of life without exploitation and class oppression.

Pro-social alternative

More than anything else, the G-20 Summit showed that workers must pay attention to their own needs, views, thinking, agenda and organisations. The groupings and agenda of the imperialists are to be scorned and denounced as irrelevant to the people and a diversion and block to organising and fighting to solve the problems of the people, socialised economy and nation-building.

Down with the imperialist system of states led by US imperialism and all its groupings!

Workers and peoples of all countries, unite for a pro-social alternative!

Workers' Daily Internet Edition

Daily On Line Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Web site: www.rcpbml.org.uk

e-mail: office@rcpbml.org.uk

Workers' Daily Internet Edition Freely available online

Workers' Daily Email Edition Subscribe by e-mail daily

Address: 170 Wandsworth Road, London, SW8 2LA

Phone: 020 7627 0599