In the six months since the financial crisis exploded with the collapse of New York investment bank Lehman Brothers, the world economy has been gripped by the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. U.S. and European banks have admitted a trillion dollars in losses, while the banking system of Iceland totally collapsed. Almost all of the major economies of the world, with the exception of China, have started to contract, with millions of workers losing their jobs and businesses going bankrupt right and left. Hardest hit for now are the new capitalist economies of eastern Europe, which are being slammed by their dependence on borrowing from foreign bankers, falling exports and plunging currencies.

Here in the United States, the news is grim. The housing market continues to fall, with prices down more than 20% and new housing starts off a staggering 80% from the peak in January 2006. Monthly job losses continue to climb, with more than four million jobs lost since the recession began, most of those in the last four months. The unemployment rate in January was 7.6%, up from 4.7% before the recession began. A growing number of big corporations like Circuit City have given up the ghost and liquidated, while hundreds and thousands of smaller businesses are going under. State and local governments are raising taxes and cutting services, adding to the woes of working people.

The financial crisis continues despite the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank lending some $1.5 trillion, and the federal government pumping hundreds of billions more into ailing financial companies. The companies given the most government aid, from insurance giant American International Group (AIG), to the former world’s largest bank, Citigroup, have had to come back for a second round of bailout money and will need a third round soon. Bank losses continue to rack up as unemployment and business bankruptcies climb, and may come to $2 to $3 trillion more.

As the recession and financial crisis tighten their grip on the economy, the U.S. and other governments are desperately trying to turn the tide. With U.S. interest rates lowered to almost zero, and trillions of dollars of financial aid to big banks unable to stem the crisis, there is talk of ‘nationalization’ of some banks, a stunning turnaround for a system wedded to deregulation just two years ago. There are also early signs that the Federal Reserve has had to crank up their electronic printing presses to pump more money into the economy, an act of desperation that could lead to much higher inflation down the road.

A $790 billion economic stimulus package was signed into law in February. But despite the big numbers, the actual impact will be at best to take the edge off the recession. $90 billion will go to household making six-digit incomes. Much of the rest of the tax cuts and new spending will be largely offset by tax increases and budget cuts by state and local governments. Working people will benefit from more money for unemployment benefits, health insurance and schools. But even the optimistic official forecast is for two more years of unemployment even higher than it is today.

Another problem is that the government’s attempts to make businesses profitable again can actually hurt the economy. The bank bailout last October let banks collect interest on the money that they stash away with the Federal Reserve. Previously, these ‘reserves’ paid no interest, giving banks an incentive to

**Alabama Marches for Gaza**

By Chapin Gray

Tuscaloosa AL - “Gaza, Gaza, don’t you cry - Palestine will never die!” Chants for Palestine rang throughout downtown Tuscaloosa Jan. 14 during the lunch hour.

Dozens of protesters marched from City Hall to the Federal Building to demand the siege on Gaza be lifted. Outside the Federal Building, protestors requested that Representative Artur Davis come outside to listen to their demands.

“The U.S. government is complicit in the Israeli massacre of over 1000 Palestinian men, women and children because it hands over billions of dollars to Israel every year,” said Alex Perry of the Tuscaloosa chapter of Students for a Democratic Society. “The U.S. nods its head towards Israel and gives its full backing to the atrocities committed there. We want support for Israel to end, so that there can be justice for Palestine.”

Fight Back! photo by Kim Defranco

Protest for Gaza at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Federal Building.
Economy, continued from page 1

lend. But now banks can make a profit by not lending and hundreds of billions of dollars are piling up in banks even as small businesses and working people are starved for credit.

The fundamental problem is that there is a crisis of overproduction. Big businesses can produce more than people can buy. At some point, enough businesses will be closed that the others will become profitable and the economy and profits will start to grow again. Mainstream economists say that this will happen later this year, assuming that no other crisis erupts - and this is a big if! But even if and when the economy begins to grow, there will be little relief for working people.

Take, for example, the auto industry. When workers walk picket lines, the fundamental problem is that there is a crisis of overproduction. Big businesses can produce more than people can buy. At some point, enough businesses will be closed that the others will become profitable and the economy and profits will start to grow again. Mainstream economists say that this will happen later this year, assuming that no other crisis erupts - and this is a big if! But even if and when the economy begins to grow, there will be little relief for working people.

Looking towards the future, we need to rejoin capitalism and fight for socialism. Is all that we can hope for is a return to what existed before the crisis? A return to a capitalist economy where millions go without health care even when the economy is growing? An economy where working people's incomes fall in the long run while the rich get richer? An economy where we have to go up to our necks in debt to make ends meet while always having to worry where the next paycheck is coming from? An economy that is drained by one or more wars thousands of miles away to protect the interests of big oil? An economy where more than the workers and oppressed people need a socialist system where political power is in the hands of the working class and the economy serves the people. So as we fight for our needs and rights today, we should educate and organize for a socialist government and economy that will benefit us, and not Wall Street and big business.

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So right now we are asking for your help so we can make Fight Back! a bigger and better newspaper. Every dollar we get helps us to serve you with up to date stories from the front lines of our struggle against rich and powerful. Please, contribute today.

Sincerely,
Mick Kelly, Editor, Fight Back!

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Economy Crisis Deepens

Deb Konechne, of the Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout, speaks at Jan. 6 rally at the state capitol.

About forty years after the civil rights act, African American, Latinos and women still earn less than whites and men. We can do better.

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Minnesota People's Bailout Act introduced in legislature

By staff

St. Paul, MN - The Minnesota People's Bailout legislation was introduced in the Minnesota State Senate and House, Feb. 9. Authored by Senator David J. Tomassoni (D-Chisholm), and Representative David Bly (D-Northfield) the Minnesota People's Bailout Act is a legislative attempt to protect the interests of low-income and working Minnesotans from the worst effects of the deepening economic crisis in Minnesota and the nation. Deb Konechne, a leader of the Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout and a member Welfare Rights Committee said, "The introduction of this legislation is an important step in the effort to protect low-income and working Minnesotans from the ever-growing economic crisis. The act will provide protection from most damaging affects of unemployment, mortgage foreclosures and evictions."

"Thousands of Minnesota tenants have been made homeless because their landlord was forced into foreclosure. The bank or mortgage company ended the leases of these tenants when reclaiming the building. This is unfair to tenants who, due to no fault of their own, find themselves suddenly "homeless," said Mick Kelly, of the Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout.

"Many of the foreclosed properties in Minneapolis and Saint Paul had affordable rents to low-income Minnesotans. These units must be kept open and available. Banks and mortgage companies that own loans to buyers of these rental properties must accept the responsibility of those landlords. Tenants should not be victimized, first by financially failing landlords and then by the banks and mortgage companies that initiate foreclosures," said Kelly.

The Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout came together to push for support for the bill in the Minnesota state legislature. The Coalition includes members of AFSCME Local 3800, the Welfare Rights Committee, the Minnesota Tenants Union and others.

"No one in Minnesota should be cold, hungry or homeless as a result of this economic crisis," said Phyllis Walker, of the Coalition and president of AFSCME Local 3800.

"The banks and corporations are getting billions of dollars to survive the economic crisis. Meanwhile, working people are being laid off in massive numbers. The People's Bailout legislation will take basic steps in the interests of the people of Minnesota," said Walker. "The Minnesota legislature must show that it represents the people of this state and take steps to protect Minnesotans from the worst effects of this crisis."

Laid Off University of Chicago Workers Fighting Mad

By staff

Chicago, IL - Sherri Taylor-Kennedy wasA4d and angry at her employer. "When I got here I was informed that my position had been eliminated. I had 30 minutes to gather my belongings and be escorted off the premises." She spoke out at a protest rally Feb. 10 to 200 co-workers and supporters at the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC).

Taylor-Kennedy has worked here for 14 years as a secretary. Management has announced 450 layoffs already, and hundreds more to come. These job cuts are happening even though the hospital hasn't lost any money, nor are there fewer patients. They are getting rid of workers because their stock-based endowment lost 40% of its value. They want to make up for their bad investments by cutting people.

Richard Berg, president of Teamsters Local 743, was highly critical of these cuts were made despite no financial losses in the operation of the hospital. "They're not General Motors or Ford, where sales are down. This is sheer arrogance," he declared to cheers from the crowd.

Local 743 was joined by Service Employees International Union Local 73, the Students Organized for Political Power (STOP), a housing group that fights University-promoted gentrification in the Woodlawn neighborhood. STOP speaker Fred Payne supported the workers, telling them they were fighting for themselves and for patients like him. In addition to cutting jobs, the hospital announced plans to turn away more poor people who come to the emergency room, and instead send them to Cook County Hospital, ten miles away. Many of the 80,000 patients that use the emergency room are African American.

Local 743 represents 1500 service and maintenance and clerical workers. Their union representative at UCMC, J. Burger, said that many of the 450 layoffs were workers represented by Local 743. Local 73 represents trades people, including carpenters and painters. 18 of whom were given layoff notices.

The threat to these workers is very serious. Taylor-Kennedy announced, "I have $1500 rent due every month and six children to feed."

Burger said, "We will fight until we win back these jobs and until this employer respects the workers and the residents of the surrounding community." The workers ended their protest chanting, "Yes, we can!" aware that President Obama's home was only a few blocks away from the University, where he had been on the faculty a few years ago.

Former Teamsters 743
President caught dealing cocaine while union president

By staff

Chicago, IL - On Jan. 22, another federal indictment was brought against Robert Walston, the former Teamster president who in 2001 and 2004 stole elections in Local 743. This time he is charged with trafficking in cocaine. He had been driving from Chicago to Texas in June 2007 when he was picked up with $135,000 in his car. The Feds had been keeping tabs on him and knew he was going to buy up to 5 kilograms of coke with that money.

At the time he was picked up with all that cash, Walston was still in office. "Apparently he was dealing cocaine while he was union president," exclaimed Richard Berg, the reform President of Local 743. Surprised by the disclosure, Berg said, "When we ran against them, we members didn't know the depths of the corruption, but we knew enough to know we had to get rid of the Walston and Lopez gang."

Two months after Walston was stopped in Texas, he resigned from office and turned himself over to his associate, Richard Lopez. Over the years that they and their predecessors had been running the local, they cut deals with companies where workers won little or no gains in wages and benefits. When workers came together with Berg and the New Leadership Slate to take their union back, Walston and his associates engaged in rigging several elections. Indictments were handed down against Walston, Lopez and four others in 2007 and 2008 for those acts.

"The workers stayed together, we won election, we have cleaned up Local 743 and we are building a fighting union now," said Berg.

Walston's co-conspirator this time is a man named Victor Matos. The indictment mentions others that were involved but doesn't give their names. The feds believe that the criminals were trying to purchase upwards of 80 kilos.
SEIU’s Stern ‘Trustees’ California Local: United Healthcare West rejects martial law

Commentary by Joe Isobaker

The trade union bureaucrats in SEIU (Service Employees International Union) are moving to crush the California local that refused to sell out.

On Jan. 27, the conflicts in SEIU came to a boil, with the rank-and-file members and the officers of United Healthcare Workers-West (UHW) standing against the officials in Washington, D.C. The SEIU international moved to take power from the fighting leadership of UHW President Sal Roselli and the executive board that wouldn’t knuckle under - by installing stooges who would do what International says to do.

The UHW said they refused to accept the trusteeship. “The only people who are happy about all of this are the employers who want to negotiate back-room deals with [the international- al],” said John Borsos, Vice President of UHW in press accounts.

Earlier in January, the international executive board had voted to take away 65,000 of the 150,000 members of the large west coast local. Those being ordered to join a new local are workers involved in long-term care of the elderly and the disabled.

However, 10 out of 56 international e- board members stood against President Andy Stern in a never before seen split vote, with seven voting no outright and three abstaining.

This trusteeship is an attack on democracy and on the best militant tradition of workers’ movement in the U.S. Members in SEIU want the right to choose which local they belong to. Tens of thousands of UHW members have been driven out, rallied and organized against Stern’s breaking up their local.

Driving the movement for democratic rights is class struggle. The D.C.-based leadership of SEIU has a program of deal making with employers. In recent years, SEIU has accepted contracts with minimal advances in exchange for the right to organize new shops. Members can see when union leaders are more interested in getting dues from new members than improving the lives of working people. In contrast, the California UHW is a local union with a history of organizing its members to fight. The rank and file of UHW actively supports their local union’s militant leadership because they make more gains through fighting management than by collaborating.

Newark, NJ: POP Protests Racist NY Post Cartoon

Cliff Sharon of People’s Organization for Progress protests New York Post.

Protestors included veteran community activists and many unaffiliated people as well. Many young people were present. Along with POP, the New Black Panther Party, International Action Center and Freedom Road Socialist Organization were represented. Bystanders and passersby added their voices. “They write negative things about us all the time,” said one.

As the beginning of a boycott campaign POP distributed a leaflet that said, “People’s Organization for Progress urges you not to purchase the New York Post for their hateful and racist cartoon of President Barack Obama.”

Noting that the day was the anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X, POP Chairman Lawrence Hamm said, “He’d say you’re a fool if you buy a newspaper that attacks you. We’re making people rich who hate us. There’s old-time 1920s stuff in there. King Kong was all about you. They hate you, they hate what you are. Get your sports from another newspaper.

The reference to President Barack Obama is plain. As well as the ugly overtone of incitement to assassina-
tion with an ugly, flagrant editorial that said, “American males: Your life cannot be taken for granted.

Transit police murdered Oscar Grant on New Year’s Day in Oakland, California. There is no disputing the video recordings and dozens of wit-

Commentary: The Murder of Oscar Grant III and the Black Liberation Struggle

By George McKinney

Oakland, CA - 2009 began with an important reminder for young African-American males: Your life cannot be taken for granted.

Oscar Grant...you, too, will not die in vain.

Over 40 years ago in Oakland, the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense declared, “We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people.” For their bold stand against police violence, dozens of Black Panther leaders across the U.S. were hunted down and killed.

In this day and age we continue the struggle for national liberation and human equality. Oscar Grant...you, too, will not die in vain.
North Carolina: HK on J Protest Draws Thousands

‘Don’t balance the budget on the backs of the poor!’

By Kosta Harlan

Raleigh, NC - Over 4000 people, the majority African American, marched in downtown Raleigh, Feb. 14, in a show of force organized by the North Carolina NAACP. This is the third year that “HK on J” (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) has taken place, bringing together over 85 grassroots organizations, trade unions, coalitions and churches around a 14-point program for change. The 14-point program is centered around addressing the needs of the African American community, low-income people, immigrants rights and ending the war.

“We are gathering to continue to remind our state legislators and other elected officials that our 14-point agenda and more than 80 action items are still relevant. The people of this state who turned out in record numbers to vote last November want to see real change,” said North Carolina NAACP President Dr. William Barber. “And further, we are coming to further say, in the midst of this current financial crisis, ‘Do not balance this budget on the backs of the poor.’”

Hundreds of students and trade unionists from across North Carolina mobilized for the protest. The program also featured speeches from workers who won union recognition at the Smithfield processing plant and UE union members who occupied their factory in Chicago.

Dr. Barber and other leaders of the HK on J movement urged the thousands in attendance to keep building the grassroots movements for change. In particular, the speakers emphasized the importance of building as broad a movement as possible to oppose massive cuts to social services and people’s needs.

Protesters Picket Israeli Dance Troop Performance

By staff

Chicago, IL - “The blood of Gaza is on your hands!” was the chant that rang out in front of the Auditorium Theater here, Feb. 8. The 60 protesters called for boycotting the performance of the Israeli Batsheba Dance Company. The dance troop is touring the U.S. as goodwill ambassadors for the Zionist state. The invasion of Gaza, in which over 1300 Palestinians were killed, including over 300 children, has put the eyes of the world on Israel. Picketers also challenged the concert-goers, saying, “Don’t dance on Gaza’s graves!” The organizers, including the International Solidarity Movement and the Palestine Solidarity Group, vowed to continue and expand the “Boycott/Divest/Sanction” campaign.

California: Protest demands full legalization, end to raids and deportations

By Carlos Montes

Los Angeles, CA - On Jan. 21, the Southern California Immigration Coalition held a rally in front of the Los Angeles Federal Building to send a message to President Obama demanding legalization for 10 million immigrants and an end to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and deportations.

The new Southern California Immigration Coalition is made up of teachers, students, anti-war and immigrant rights groups based in southern California. The Coalition was formed to build unity in the struggle against the increased repression against immigrants - especially against Mexican immigrants. The Coalition will continue the fight to win full legalization from the new administration. The Southern California Immigration Coalition will lead a march on March 28 to build toward the May 1 demonstration for immigrant rights in downtown Los Angeles.

The web site is www.immigrationcoalition.org

60 protesters called for boycotting the performance of the Israeli Batsheba Dance Company.
In the same article, Ashraf Ghani, the former finance minister of Afghanistan who quit in 2004 in protest at the rampant corruption, is quoted as saying, “This government has lost the capacity to govern because a shadow government has taken over. [...] The narco-mafia state is now completely consolidated.”

In fact, opium production is at an all-time high, more than triple what it was while the Taliban ruled the area. While it is commonly asserted that the opium trade is the main income for the insurgency, the above mentioned quotations from the former finance minister illustrate the reality of government involvement in, and massive profiteering from, opium production. As even President Hamid Karzai was forced to acknowledge in late 2008, "All the politicians in this country have acquired everything - money, lots of money. God knows, it is beyond the four walls of the world and of the money of our statemen." (Bribes Corrode Afghans’ Trust in Government, New York Times, 1/01/09).

The next day, a series of attacks targeted U.S. forces across the country. In Kandahar province, four American soldiers were killed, along with twelve other military personnel when their helicopter crashed in the western mountains. The next day, one of Afghanistan’s most senior military officials. The Taliban claim to have shot down the helicopter, while the U.S.-backed government in Kabul says it crashed due to bad weather.

The day following, another U.S. soldier died when insurgents shot down a helicopter in the northeast of the country. The Taliban also carried out another suicide bombing against a joint Afghan police-U.S. military convoy. This bombing wounded six American military police and killed one Afghan policeman. Two days later, on Jan. 18, the Afghan resistance carried out three more bombing attacks against police and military targets in the eastern town of Khost, near the border with Pakistan. (Three Attacks Hit Eastern Afghan Town, New York Times, 1/19/09).

Afghanistan has been ravaged by the war, but it is clear that the U.S. occupation has enabled this. The United States has poured billions of dollars into Afghanistan, and the opium trade has flourished. The United States has also supported the Taliban, who have used the opium trade to fund their insurgency. The United States has also supported the Afghan government, which has been plagued by corruption. The United States has also supported the NATO forces, which have been involved in numerous attacks on civilians.

As the New York Times reported on Jan. 18:

“The commanders here call the current situation ‘stalemate,’ meaning they can hold what they have but cannot do much else. Of the 20,000 British and American forces in Afghanistan, only roughly 300 - a group of British Royal Marines - can be moved around the region to strike the Taliban. All the other units must stay where they are, lest the area they hold slip from their grasp.” (Taliban Fili NATO’s Big Gaps in Afghan South, New York Times, 12/21/09).

To fight a guerrilla war successfully, the insurgents have to stay close to the people. There is no other way to overpower a militarily superior force. This is precisely what the Taliban and other Afghan resistance groups have succeeded in doing.

Afghans who still have a favorable view of the occupying forces find it increasingly difficult to uphold the occupation, when their own lives now consist of being massaged by U.S. and NATO forces. For example, on Jan. 25, several hundred Afghans protested in the Afghan Province over the deaths of 16 children - among them two women and three children - at the hands of the U.S. military. The U.S.-backed resistance of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, denounced the nighttime raid and demanded that U.S. forces coordinate their activities with local Afghan security forces. Even the speaker of the Senate, Sebaghatullah Mojaieddi, was reported to have warned that “if more care was not taken, the nation could rise up against the foreign troop presence here.” (From Hospital, Afghans Rebate U.S. Account, New York Times, 1/25/09).

Lutfullah Mashal, a U.S.-backed governor of the province where the massacre occurred, summed up the situation perfectly: “The people are angry with us. Unless the international community, and especially military forces, coordinate with us, we are not going to win this war. The only way to win is to bring the hopes and minds of the people, and then you can beat the enemy.”

The fact is, no occupation can ever win over the hearts and minds of an occupied people, and only those who dream of the same can win. Otherwise, the sacred of Afghan civilians will provoke more Afghans to join the fight against the occupying forces, while the puppet government put in place to help pacify the population is crumbling under the astonishing levels of corruption and negligence.

The U.S. invaded and occupied Afghanistan for its natural resources and its strategic location. The U.S. army is not fighting a just cause, while the Afghan people are waging a heroic fight for independence. It is time for the United States to understand that it is defending the Afghan people from the backlands of Taliban. It is time for the United States to end its occupation and to end the occupation now.

By Kosti Harlan

2009 started off poorly for U.S. and NATO forces operating Afghanistan. Shortly after the U.S. military invaded and occupied Afghan forces for the Taliban in Mohmand Agency, a department near the Pakistani Secure New Supply Routes to Afghanistan, New York Times, 1/12/09). There was no report of casualties suffered by Pakistani or NATO forces.

On Jan. 19, General David Petraeus, now responsible for U.S. Central Command, announced that NATO had secured agreements with Russia and neighboring Central Asian countries to supply arms, food and medical supplies to occupying forces from the northern borders of Afghanistan - the southern and eastern provinces of the country now being completely under the control of guerrilla forces (U.S. to Get Allowed New Routes To Supply Troops in Afghanistan, Washington Post, 1/12/09).

The deteriorating state of security for the occupation forces is made much worse by high levels of corruption in the Afghan state. Under the Taliban, power remained to be seen, but it will how to engage in combat with the occupiers.

Supply route cut

At the end of December 2008, U.S. and Pakistan security forces mount- ed a major operation to secure the Khyber Pass, a critical transit point that runs between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Khyber Pass is the source for supplies used by U.S. and NATO forces and the Afghan resistance has indicated that one of its strategic objectives is to cut off supplies to its sup- ply route. Just days before the operation began, Afghan insurgents stormed a supply depot in Peshawar, Pakistan, where the transit route through the Khyber Pass begins. Without firing a single shot, they overpowered the security forces and destroyed around 300 cargo trucks, Humvees, and other military equipment destined for the occupier’s use.

Within days of the operation begin- ning, more than 70 people had been arrested by the Pakistani security forces, while two children and a woman were killed by an artillery shell launched by the Pakistani army. In addition, 45 homes were destroyed by Pakistani troops on “orders to dynamite or bulldoze homes belonging to men suspected of harboring or supporting Taliban militants or carrying out other illegal activities.” (Pakistan Briefly Reopens Key NATO Supply Route, New York Times, 1/10/09). In the weeks later, the security operation was still ongoing. On Jan. 18, the Pakistani army and “paramilitary forces used by artillery, tanks and helicopter guns” were reported to have killed 60 fighters, including 27 that the number of helicopters assigned to medical evacuation be increased by a factor of 25%

Operation faltering

All the above is but a small sample of what is taking place on a daily basis in occupied Afghanistan. It is clear that the U.S. occupation is faltering.
The Gaza War: Victory for the Palestinian People

By Haitham Abadailey

Israel’s 22-day assault on the Palestinian people in Gaza, starting Dec. 27, 2008, ended when Israel acknowledged defeat - declaring a unilateral ‘ceasefire’ Jan. 17. Israel’s political and military goals were not met and, as in the summer of 2006, when the Lebanese resistance defeated Israel’s military, the Palestinians and their resistance emerged victorious.

Israel’s propaganda machine could not disguise the fact that the assault was meant to crush the Palestinian resistance. Targeting the whole of the Palestinian people, approximately 1350 Palestinians, including over 300 children, were killed in the attacks, with over 5000 more injured. Over half of the injured were women and children.

Millions of people across the world rose in protest against Israel’s massacres and war crimes. The Israelis were left scrambling to defend their atrocities, but were not able to, even with the continued military, diplomatic and political support of the U.S.

The mass Arab and international popular movements united around the world, including hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Americans here, taking to the streets in passionate support for the Palestinian people. The governments of Bolivia and Venezuela cut diplomatic ties with Israel, expelling Israel’s ambassadors from their respective capitals.

The Palestinian Front and Resistance

As analyzed in Fight Back! News Service in February of 2006, Hamas won the majority of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections of January 2006. Soon after, Israel, the U.S. and the European Union refused to acknowledge the victory and imposed a political blockade on Hamas and its appointed Palestinian prime minister, who, according to Palestinian law, was empowered to form a unity government arrangement with elected Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas.

Later, in June 2007, after an internal battle between Hamas and Abbas’s Fatah movement supporters, Hamas took power in Gaza, prompting Israel to immediately impose a military siege on the Gaza Strip, closing the borders and restricting the entry of food, medicine, medical supplies, fuel, electricity and other essential items needed for the Gazans’ survival.

Both the blockade and Israel’s breaking the ceasefire with the Palestinians on Nov. 4, 2008 are acts of war. The Palestinian resistance to Israel’s offensive is a legitimate response to an illegal military occupation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank that has continued unabated since 1967. Israel’s unilateral declaration of the current ‘ceasefire’ is a sham, as elements of its ground forces remain in Gaza and the siege has not ended; nor have the border crossings, particularly at the Rafah border with Egypt, been opened.

Tons of humanitarian goods have been sent back by the Israelis and Egyptians, most notably a delivery from Iran and a ship from Lebanon that also carried former U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. Israel’s unilateral ‘ceasefire’ also signifies that its military was not able to defeat the Palestinian resistance, which was strong and unified and included all the organizations that constitute the Palestinian national liberation movement - Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Islamic Jihad, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Fatah and others. It also signifies that Israel’s political and its foreign internal Palestinian division - to impose an acceptance of Israeli apartheid and occupation on the Palestinian people - was defeated as well.

This unity in resistance must translate into a political unity. So, although there are Egyptian-mediated talks between Hamas and Fatah planned, neither organization is foreseen to lead the Palestinian people alone and their battle for control of the Palestinian polity can only weaken the Palestinian cause.

The Palestinian people insist that its representative should be a national unity formation, one that truly represents all of the Palestinian social sectors and resistance forces, led by a reformed and recognized Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The Arab Front and ‘Normalisation’

The summit of Sharm el-Sheikh (an Egyptian resort town) in late January, attended by Europeans and some Americans here, taking to the streets in protests against the Israeli assault, was indicative of the Arab world. There, the discussion of European ‘monitoring’ of the Palestinian-Israeli border proves that there is no sovereignty either in Egypt or in Gaza and that these European imperialist powers are trying to impose their hegemony on the Arab peoples.

Moun Rabbani, a contributing editor to the Middle East Report magazine, dismissed the significance of the summit, according to Aljazeera English. He said the Egyptians, instead of talking about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza as it had been caused by an earthquake, are asking, “I’m speechless, that you can, in 2009, have a major international gathering to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and have a whole series of keynote addresses, in which the word ‘occupation’ isn’t mentioned even once.”

In addition, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is talking about a “new Middle East” - one, for all intents and purposes, that does not recognize either him or the other reactionary Arab leaders’ attempts to ‘normalise’ relations with Israel. As Mubarak was talking to the Egyptian State Information Service, normalization “simply means that there will be no restrictions whatsoever on cooperation in any area.”

Over the past 15 years since the formation of Oslo Peace Accords this ‘cooperation’ has manifested itself in Egyptian, Jordanian and Saudi pressure on the Palestinian Authority to liquidate the armed Palestinian resistance by arresting resistance leaders in the West Bank and Gaza, closing and opening crossings, and coordination with the Mossad (Israel’s intelligence and special operations agency) and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The Israel-U.S.-UK coalition is deftly exploiting the Arab states to ensure the fascist regime’s survival.

In Israel the ultra-right-wing is definitively on the rise. As this analysis goes to press, Israeli President Shimon Peres that peace is a fact - the leader of the far right and a former Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu to form the next Israeli unity government, after the election of Nov. 29. The vast majority of the Palestinian people support the resistance as a means to end the occupation, to secure the Right of Return for all Palestinian refugees and their descendants and to achieve freedom, independence and a lasting peace for all the people in the region.

The Israeli Front

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May Day 2009: Fighting the Crisis

By Freedom Road Socialist Organization

On May 1, International Workers Day, millions upon millions will be marching against the capitalist economic crisis that has engulfed most of the world. Working people in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Central America will hit the streets to protest the soaring unemployment, shorter hours and cuts in pay that are sweeping the world.

Here in the U.S. May 1 has become a day of mass protest as Chicanos, Mexicans, Central Americans and their allies demand a stop to raids and deportations and for legalization of the undocumented. The Chicano nation is mortally sick from the repression of state, inequality and national oppression and a movement is growing for liberation and self-determination.

On May 1 we celebrate the spirit of internationalism, of solidarity with the struggles of oppressed countries, nations and peoples against imperialism in general and the U.S. empire in particular. Over the last year we have seen the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people against a murderous onslaught of the Zionist planes and tanks, which had the full backing of the U.S. government. The U.S.-backed puppet government in Afghanistan is sinking deeper in crisis and the United States is rushing tens of thousands more troops to try to prop it up. The worldwide economic crisis is weakening the hold of the United States over its empire as more and more countries are challenging U.S. domination around the world.

For the first time since the Great Depression of the 1930s the U.S. economy is being crushed between a severe recession and a full-blown financial crisis. Nationwide, millions of homes stand vacant and cannot be rented or sold. Millions of insolvent cars sit on dealers lots. A crisis of overproduction has overwhelmed the financial businesses cut down or shut down, throwing millions of workers into the street.

Wall Street firms, from investment banks Lehman Brothers to insurance giant American International Group (AIG), have been bailed out by the U.S. government. We need state legislatures and Congress to pass a law banning evictions of tenants when their landlords go into foreclosure. We need state legislatures and Congress to pass a law requiring the lender to offer a 30-year, interest-free mortgage to allow a "right-to-rent" for home buyers who can't pay their mortgages.

But working people across the country were inspired by the struggle of the Republic Window workers in Chicago, who exposed Bank of America's role in shutting down their company. The Republic Window workers are carrying on the long tradition of struggle of workers in Chicago. On May 1, 1886, U.S. workers went on strike for an eight-hour day. In Chicago's Haymarket Square, striking workers clashed with police and the injuries were inflicted by the police. This was a man-made disaster rooted in the deep racism, and the systematic oppression of the Black nation.

They invaded not one, but two countries in their attempt to take control of the Middle East and Central Asia, along with the area’s vast supply of oil. The U.S. administration stepped up the raids and deportations, trying to spread fear and terror in the Chicano, Mexican and Central American communities. The devastation of New Orleans and Mississippi and the ethnic cleansing of African American communities was not a natural disaster: it was a man-made disaster rooted in the deep racism, and the systematic oppression of the Black nation.

 Growing outrage at Bush and the right wing led tens of thousands to protest at the Republican National Convention in Minnesota, a People’s Bailout Coalition has formed. As a coalition of grassroots organizations from the urban poor, labor, student, immigrant movement, they have been able to introduce legislation that would defend working people and make the rich pay. Under eight years of Republican rule, the rich got richer and the poor poorer. The government allowed Wall Street to run amok and cleared the way for the financial crisis that exploded last year.

Of course the big banks and wealthy investors will argue that this will be bad for them, which will mean that they will lend less, which will hurt homebuyers. But they are the ones who helped to create the crisis with their fraudulent lending! They should pay! And they are not lending anyway! The banks are sitting on $800 billion in cash, despite getting hundreds of billions from the Bush bank bailout! The people should not just pressure the U.S. government to stop foreclosures and evictions, they should demand that the government take the banks' cash, despite getting hundreds of billions from the Bush bank bailout! The problem was not just Bush and the Republicans, nor is the solution more Democrats in Congress.

Only a stronger people’s movement can challenge the hold of Wall Street and big business over economic policy. Only a massive anti-war movement can oppose the U.S. troop escalation in Afghanistan and U.S. plans to expand the war to Pakistan. Only a revived immigrant rights movement can stop the raids and deportations and win legalization for the undocumented. Only the rising up of African American, Chicano/Latino and other oppressed nationalities can stop the police killings, stop the political killings in our communities and advance the struggle for equality, liberation and self-determination.

In the final analysis, the economic crisis, anti-immigrant movements and imperialist war are part and parcel of monopoly capitalism. It is the tiny minority of billionaires who own the big banks and corporations who profit, while working people lose their jobs, their homes, their communities and their lives. More and more it is clear that we must replace capitalism with a system where production is for people's needs, not billionaires' profits: socialism.

Long live International Workers Day! Legalization, not raids and deportations! Equality, liberation, and self determination for all oppressed nations! Jobs and funding for schools and services; stop foreclosures; and make the rich pay! Troops out of Afghanistan; withdraw all troops from Iraq now!
NYU President Sexton attacks Bobcats
The New York University Student Occupation

By Doug Michel

New York, NY - The student movement has continued to push forward, taking New York University by storm with an occupation of around 80 students in the Kimmel Center. After two years of preparation, the coalition Take Back NYU! occupied the building for two days, Feb. 18. Students outwitted police to the very end, with a couple even moving out to the Kimmel balcony when police raided their space. Student leaders now face suspension, but they have vowed to continue the struggle.

NYU occupier Maria Lewis described the reason for the occupation in Let Them Talk: “Students came together...really feeling like we wanted a more transparent and accountable democratic university. There’s very little transparency at NYU.” The Take Back NYU! Coalition started as a way to amplify over 20 student organizations on the issues of democracy, accessibility, education, divestment from Israel and opposing U.S. wars and occupations. After two years of writing letters and lobbying the administration through the student senate, the occupation began.

The list of demands from Take Back NYU! includes full compensation for all employees whose jobs were disrupted during the course of the occupation, public release of NYU’s investments, labor rights for student workers and all NYU employees, a Socially Responsible Finance Committee, annual scholarships for 13 Palestinian students, a NYU donation to rebuild the University of Gaza and tuition stabilization for all students. The most pressing demand was the immediate investigation of university war profiteering, particularly in the case of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Students barricaded themselves into the third floor area while 500 supporters cheered outside in solidarity. Students used the balcony to proclaim their occupation and list their demands. The entire Kimmel Center building was shut down for two days.

During the occupation, solidarity letters poured in from across the nation. Chapters of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), whose national media working group facilitated media work during the occupation, vigorously supported the takeover. “We support the demands by Take Back NYU! and SDS in their effort to oppose U.S. imperialism and the military-academic complex,” one statement from the University of North Carolina Asheville SDS reads.

On Feb. 20, students announced from the balcony that they received word from NYU President Sexton that they were ready to negotiate face to face. For two days Sexton and the university administration continued to be silent to their demands. In an act of ugly deceit, President Sexton, 25 riot cops burst into the Kimmel Center and cornered the smattering of students. 15 students were suspended for a week. The university is barring them from campus and participating in student organizations. NYU also imposed a period of disciplinary probation for the remainder of the semester. A recent Take Back NYU! statements declares, “We might be suspended for the moment, but NYU’s actions have made even more clear the necessity for democracy, transparency, accountability and respect for human rights.”

This latest student occupation came after two other successful occupations by the Radical Student Union at New York University and SDS at the University of Rochester. Interestingly, there has been a flurry of occupations in Britain and throughout Europe in the past two months since the U.S.-backed Israeli invasion of Gaza. Student activist groups like Take Back NYU! and SDS continue to press forward to democratize NYU and SDS continue to press forward to democratize the struggle to democratize NYU and SDS continue to press forward to democratize the struggle to democratize the struggle to democratize NYU and SDS continue to press forward to democratize NYU and SDS continue to press forward to democratize the struggle to democratize NYU.

Hundreds Rally for Palestine

By Daniel Ginsberg-Jaeckle

Milwaukee, WI - It snowed, yet hundreds gathered outside the Milwaukee Federal Building here, in the late afternoon, Jan. 6, for the “Stop Israeli Invasion of Gaza!” rally.

Initiated by student anti-war and solidarity activists at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the protest gave voice to people who want an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Rally organizers estimate at least 300 people were present, the result of good networking between the student anti-war and solidarity movement, the peace movement and the Muslim communities of Milwaukee.

“We’re doing this in the spirit of unity in which we together have been able to work with brave Palestinians,” commented Rachel Metteson of Milwaukee Students for a Democratic Society.

The rally began with more bad news from Gaza, according to the morning news: Reports of more than 500 Palestinians dead, an Israeli bombing of a UN school and of Israel censoring journalists in the area.

At one point, the protesters gathered to hear speeches from various community leaders, including Julie Enslow, the 2008 Lifetime Peacemaker Award winner and Othman Atta, the President of the Milwaukee Islamic Center.

Two days before, Atta, in reading a statement of latest events to an audience of over 500 at an Islamic community center, condemned Israel’s invasion. Atta called Gaza “the largest open air prison in the world” and later stated, “Israel’s problem with Hamas is not its military ability, its rockets or its ideology. Hamas’s crime lies in its continued unwillingness to kowtow to Israeli demands.” This statement came to the roaring approval of the audience.

A counter-demonstration was announced to the employees of 12-story, block-long Federal building. This brought legal observers, white arm banded ‘peace makers’ and more police to the scene, however not a single counter-demonstrator arrived. Those who deserved attention the most - the people fighting for justice in Palestine - received all the media attention.

Co-sponsoring organizations of the rally included Jews for Justice, Progressive Students of Milwaukee, American Muslims for Palestine, Milwaukee Students for a Democratic Society and Jews for Justice in Puerto Rico, Greater Milwaukee Green Party, Muslim Student Association at UWM and MAS Freedom Foundation.

Student Organizers from American Muslims for Palestine, Milwaukee Students for a Democratic Society and Jews for Justice have already discussed more possibilities of protest in the near future.
Economía, continúa de página 12

Crisis económica

En el capitalismo, las compañías grandes tienen un gran poder para influir en el mercado. Cuando una empresa grande decide que quiere aumentar sus ganancias, puede hacerlo de varias maneras. Una de ellas es reduciendo la cantidad de trabajadores. Esto puede tener un impacto significativo en la economía y en la sociedad en general.

Un ejemplo de esto es lo que está pasando con los trabajadores de la compañía Republic Windows and Doors. Esta compañía, que fabrica ventanas y puertas, ha decidido cerrar su oficina en California y despedir a todos sus empleados. La compañía ha dicho que esto es debido a la crisis económica.

Sin embargo, muchos trabajadores están protestando contra esta decisión. En un movimiento reciente, los trabajadores de la compañía han ocupado el edificio de la administración de la empresa. Han exigido que se les dé una oportunidad para negociar y que se les dé una solución digna.

Esta protesta es parte de una larga historia de lucha de los trabajadores por su seguridad y bienestar. Los trabajadores de Republic Windows and Doors están enfrentando una difícil situación, pero su esfuerzo por luchar por sus derechos es una muestra de la resistencia y la determinación del conjunto de la clase trabajadora.

En resumen, la crisis económica está poniendo a prueba a las empresas grandes y las consecuencias pueden ser significativas. Los trabajadores tienen derecho a una seguridad y bienestar justos y dignos. Nuestra lucha por una verdadera recuperación económica debe ser un esfuerzo conjunto para proteger a todos los trabajadores.

¡LUCHA Y RESISTE!
¡No más reposiciones! ¡No más desalojos!

Editorial de ¡Lucha y Resiste!

En enero, ambas corporaciones Fannie Mae y Freddie Mac dejaron de desalojar a los ocupantes en casas reseñadas. Los ocupantes ahora pueden quedarse como arrendatarios. El gobierno tomó posesión de Fannie y Freddie el año pasado y ha cambiado algunas políticas para tratar de calmar la ola de reposiciones y desalojos. Dejaran que se queden los ocupantes, ahora habrán menos casas reseñadas y las familias que alquilan sus hogares no serán echadas de sus comunidades.

Pero las corporaciones Fannie y Freddie sólo tienen una quinta parte de los pagos de las hipotecas retardadas. Los otros 80% están en manos de las grandes bancos e inversionistas. ¡Los gobiernos estatales y el Congreso tienen que hacer algo!

1. Los legisladores estatales deben pasar un ALTO inmediato de reposiciones para todos los ocupantes de casas, sean duenos o arrendatarios. Este alto debe seguir en efecto hasta que el Congreso cambie las leyes para proteger a los ocupantes de casas.

2. Los legisladores estatales y el Congreso tienen que pasar una ley que prohíba los desalojos de arrendatarios. Con sus propietarios entran en reposiciones. Los arrendatarios deben poder quedarse bajo su contrato anterior o sea por contrato extendido o en su caso.

3. El Congreso tiene que cambiar las leyes de la bancarotta para permitir que los dueños puedan modificar sus pagos de hipoteca. Los jueces de la bancarotta deben tener el poder de parar la ejecución para que el hospital no ha perdido dinero, no tenga que declara en la bancarotta. Esto permitirá que el dueño pueda quedarse en su casa y pagar la renta al valor del mercado. También sería un incentivo a los prestamistas para modificar los pagos de la hipoteca.

4. El Congreso también tiene que cambiar la ley para permitir que los dueños de casas que no alcanzan a pagar sus pagos de hipoteca tengan el derecho de alquilar para no tener que declararse en la bancarotta. Esto permitirá que el dueño pueda quedarse en su casa y pagar la renta al valor del mercado. También podría prestar menos y esto les afectar negativamente a los que tienen que comprar una casa. Pero son los bancos que ayudaron a causar esta crisis con sus préstamos fraudulentos. ¡Ellos deben pagar en vez de buscar cualquier razón para no prestar!

Los bancos están sentados en $800 mil millones en efectivo, a pesar de que seguir cuentos de miles de millones del rescate de Bush. Pero el pueblo debe hacer más que sólo presionar a sus legisladores y congresistas. Cuando les negaron sus derechos a los ricos y al banco, ahora están en reposiciones, pero las corporaciones entran en reposiciones. Los arrendatarios deben poder quedarse bajo su contrato anterior (sea por contrato extendido o en su caso.

La amenaza para estos trabajadores es muy seria. Taylor-Kennedy declaró, “Yo tengo que pagar la renta mensual de $1500 y tengo seis hijos que mantengo.”

El Local 743 representa a 1500 oficinistas y trabajadores de limpieza. Su historia puede leerse en el Centro Médico. J. Burger, dijo que muchos de los 450 despidos fueron trabajadores represados por el Local 743. El Local 743 representa a trabajadores capacitados, incluyendo a carpinteros y pintores, 18 de los cuales fueron despedidos sin aviso previo.

Se le añade una nueva acusación al antiguo presidente de los Teamsters del Local 743 “Traficando cocaína mientras fungía como presidente del sindicato”

Por redacción

Chicago, IL. - El 22 de enero, otra acusación federal fue presentada en contra de Robert Walston, el antiguo presidente de los Teamsters quien en 2001 y 2004 robó las elecciones del Local 743. En esta ocasión es acusado de traficar con cocaína. El había estada manejando de Chicago a Texas en junio de 2007 cuando fue arrestado con $135,000.00 en su carro. El FBI había estado observando sus movimientos y sabía que iba a comprar hasta 5 kilos de cocaína con ese dinero.

Al momento en que fue arrestado con todo ese dinero, Walston fungía como presidente. “Aparentemente estaba traficando con cocaína mientras era presidente del sindicato,” expresó Richard Berg, el presidente refor- mador del Local 743. Sorprendido por la publicación, Berg dijo, “Cuando corrímos contra ellos, nosotros los miembros no sabíamos la profundidad de la corrupción, pero por suerte lo suficiente para saber que teníamos que deshacernos de la banda de Walston y López.”

Dos meses después que Walston fue detenido en Texas, el renunció a la presidencia y entregó la presidencia a su colega, Richard López. Al paso de los años que ellos y su predecesores habían estado arrebatando el local, ellos hacen tratos con las corporaciones donde los trabajadores ganaban poco o nada en aumentos salariales y beneficios. Cuando los trabajadores se unieron con Berg y el bloque del Nuevo Liderazgo para recuperar su sindicato, Walston y sus colegas se ocuparon de amañar las elecciones. Acusaciones fueron entregadas en contra de Walston, López y otros cuatro en 2007 y 2008 por esas acciones.

“Los trabajadores se mantuvieron en pie, y reunimos dinero para limpiar el Local 743 y ahora estamos construyendo un sindicato de lucha,” declaró Berg.

En esta ocasión el conspirador es Walston y es un hombre llamado Víctor López. Las declaraciones mencionan a otros que estuvieron involucrados pero no dieron sus nombres. Los Federales creen que los criminales estaban tratando de comprar más de 80 kilos.

Trabajadores despedidos de la Universidad de Chicago luchan fuertemente

Por redacción

Sherri Taylor-Kennedy se sintió insultada y furiosa con su empleador. “Cuando llegué me informaron que mi puesto había sido eliminado. Tenía 10 minutos para juntar mis pertenencias y ser escoltada fuera del establecimiento.” Ella dijo en un mitín el 10 de febrero a 200 trabajadores y aliados en el Centro Médico de la Universidad de Chicago.

Ms. Taylor-Kennedy ha trabajado como secretaria por 14 años. La administración ha ya anunciado 450 despidos, y cientos por venir. Estos recortes están sucediendo a pesar de que el hospital no ha perdido dinero, como tampoco hay menos pacientes. Ellos se están deshaciendo de trabajadores porque su cuenta de donativos basada en la bolsa perdió 40% de su valor. Ellos quieren compensar sus malas inversiones al despedir gente.

Richard Berg, el presidente del Local 743 de los Teamsters, criticó duramente todos estos recortes que fueron hechos a pesar de que no hubo pérdidas financieras en las operaciones del hospital. “Ellos no son General Motors o Ford, donde las ventas están bajas. Esto es pura arro-gancia,” declaró frente a la ovación de la multitud.

Se unieron al Local 743 el Local 73 de Service Employees International Union. La organización Organizes Students for a campaign and Unidas con el Labor and Southside Together Organized for Power (STOP), un grupo que lucha contra el desplazamiento, fomentado por la Universidad, en el barrio de Woodland. El vocero de STOP Fred Payne apoyó a los trabajadores, dijo que ellos estaban luchando por ellos mismos y por pacientes como él. Además de recortar trabajos, el hospital anunció sus planes de chazar a más gente pobre quienes vienen a la sala de emergencia, y mandarlos al hospital del Condado de Cook, a diez millas de distancia. La mayoría de los 80,000 pacientes que usan la sala de emergencia son afro-americanos.

Los trabajadores del local 743, que hacen $135,000.00 en su carro, detestan perder su trabajo. El FBI estaba buscando su relación con el narcotráfico último que fue arrestado con $135,000.00 en su carro. El FBI había estado observando sus movimientos y sabía que iba a comprar hasta 5 kilos de cocaína con ese dinero.

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PARECE QUE NO HAY FIN
Depresión económica más profunda desde la Gran Depresión

En los seis meses desde que empezó la crisis financiera con el colapso del banco de inversiones Lehman Brothers en Nueva York, la economía mundial ha entrado a la crisis económica más grande desde la Gran Depresión de los años 1930. Los bancos estadounidenses y europeos han admitido pérdidas de un billón de dólares, mientras el sistema de bancos en el país de Islandia colapsó completamente. Casi todas las economías principales del mundo (con la excepción de China) han empezado a reducirse, con millones de trabajadores perdiendo sus trabajos y muchos negocios llegando a la bancarrota en todos lados. Las economías más fuertemente golpeadas son las nuevas economías capitalistas de Europa de Este, quienes están siendo golpeadas fuertemente debido a su dependencia de préstamos de bancos extranjeros, la construcción de exportaciones, y la caída del valor de dinero.

Aquí en Estados Unidos, las noticias son malas también. El mercado de viviendas sigue cayendo, con precios reducidos más de 20% y construcción de nuevas casas 80% más abajo que el alto en enero 2006. Perdidas de trabajos mes tras mes siguen creciendo, con más de cuatro millones de trabajos perdidos desde que empezó la recesión, la mayoría de estos en los últimos cuatro meses. La cifra de desempleo en enero fue 7.6%, en comparación con la cifra de 4.7% antes de que empezó la recesión. Un número creciente de corporaciones grandes como Circuit City han cerrado, mientras cientos y miles de negocios más pequeños también están cerrando. Los gobiernos estatales y locales están aumentando impuestos y cortando servicios, agregando dolor a la situación para los trabajadores. La crisis financiera sigue a pesar de préstamos de un trillón de dólares y medidas de rescate, y necesitarán una tercera infusión de dinero del gobierno pronto. Las pérdidas de los bancos siguen creciendo mientras el desempleo y bancarrota de negocios también siguen creciendo. Las pérdidas de los bancos podrían crecer hasta dos o tres trillones de dólares más. Mientras la recesión y la crisis financiera siguen dañando más a la economía, los Estados Unidos y otros gobiernos están desesperados para cambiar la situación. No han podido frenar la crisis con medidas fuertes como la bajada de la tasa de interés estadounidense a casi cero y con trillones de dólares de ayuda financiera a los bancos grandes. En este contexto algunos políticos están hablando de la "nacionalización" de algunos bancos. Este es un acto de desesperación que podría causar inflación económica mucho más alta.

En febrero el gobierno aprobó un paquete de estímulo económico de 790 billones de dólares. Pero a pesar de esta cantidad grande de dinero, el impacto real solo va a ser de reducir el impacto de la recesión un poquito. 900 billones de dólares van a ser dirigidos a familias con ingresos arriba de $100,000. Mucho del resto de los recursos de impuestos y los nuevos gastos van a ser balanceado por aumentos de los impuestos y recortes presupuestarios por los gobiernos estatales y locales. Los trabajadores van a sentir el efecto del aumento de dinero para beneficios para la gente desempleada, seguro médico y las escuelas. Pero hasta la gente más optimista predice que el nivel de desempleo va a seguir aumentando por lo menos dos años más.

Otros problemas enfrenta el gobierno. Es que los mismos esfuerzos que hace para intentar restaurar las ganancias a los negocios pueden tener el efecto de hacer daño a la economía. El rescate de los bancos el octubre pasado permitió que los bancos recolectaran intereses en el dinero que ahorraron en la Reserva Federal. Antes estas "reservas" no pagaban intereses, que daba incentivo a los bancos para prestar dinero a las empresas a tasas muy bajas para ganar intereses.

En el contexto de la situación actual, el gobierno es una parte esencialmente del problema y no de la solución. Los bancos y las empresas están en el centro de la crisis porque los bancos y las empresas están estrechamente unidas con las economías del mundo. "Nacionalizar" los bancos es un acto de desesperación en el contexto de una economía mundial en crisis. "Nacionalizar" los bancos significa que se necesitan medidas drásticas para mantener la economía. Esto significa medidas casi de control de precios, para dirigir la economía hacia las necesidades de la población.

LA CRISIS ES UNA OPORTUNIDAD

En este momento crítico del mundo, no es necesario el desesperado "nacionalizar" de los bancos. En vez, es necesario un plan de gran escala para dirigir la economía mundial y dirigirla hacia las necesidades de la población en este momento de crisis. Es necesario poner en práctica medidas firmes y duras para dirigir la economía hacia las necesidades de la población. Es necesario poner en práctica medidas firmes y duras para dirigir la economía hacia las necesidades de la población. Es necesario poner en práctica medidas firmes y duras para dirigir la economía hacia las necesidades de la población. Es necesario poner en práctica medidas firmes y duras para dirigir la economía hacia las necesidades de la población. Es necesario poner en práctica medidas firmes y duras para dirigir la economía hacia las necesidades de la población.