

# Fight Imperialism Stand Together Youth Group

In The Spirit Of Martin Luther King Jr.



## NATIONAL MARCH FOR JOBS ON WALL ST. BAIL OUT STUDENTS NOT THE BANKS! APRIL 3 & 4 2009

YES, 2 days! The protest will start on Friday April 3rd. More people from across the country will join us on Saturday April 4th.

### **WE DEMAND:**

EDUCATION IS A RIGHT

CANCEL STUDENT DEBT

NO TUITION HIKES

DIVEST FROM ISRAEL

A JOBS PROGRAM WITH A LIVING WAGE

NOT JAILS AND PRISONS



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The Bail out the People Movement, which the youth group Fight Imperialism Stand Together (FIST) is a part of, is calling for a march on Wall Street, here in New York City, on April 3rd and 4th.

This April 3rd will mark the 41st year since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech in Memphis, Tenn., to striking sanitation workers who were working for extremely meager wages and being severely repressed.

April 4th will be the 41st anniversary since his assassination.

These are important dates to commemorate, even more so during this severe capitalist crisis. Workers and the oppressed are being fired from their jobs in mass numbers, evicted from their homes and face an increasingly turbulent future. The crisis may supplant the Great Depression as greatest calamity of the capitalist system.

By marching on Wall Street—the heart of the financial district—a new phase of struggle in the U.S. will be opened up. Wall Street is the center of U.S. high finance and therefore the center of parasitic U.S. imperialism. Imperialism is an outgrowth of the capitalist system that seeks greater and cheaper access to resources and commodities, especially cheap human labor. It pits workers around the globe against one another in a drive to the bottom.

The march will in part call for:

- A real jobs program with a living wage
- An end to foreclosures and evictions
- Universal Healthcare
- Stop cutbacks and layoffs
- Solidarity with immigrant workers

Youth and students have a vested interest in mobilizing for and being a dynamic presence at the march. The official unemployment rate is 7.6 percent, which many consider a conservative estimate. When you factor in the official total unemployment—people who have stopped looking for work and people wanting full-time work but only able to find part-time work—the is more than 13 percent.

For youth ages 16 to 19, the unemployment rate is more than 20 percent, more than 30 percent for Black youth and 18 percent for white youth. For Black men over the age of 20 the unemployment rate is more than 20 percent and is double-digit numbers for Latin@s and indigenous people.

While banks and automakers get bailed out, workers and the oppressed are saddled with debt for merely trying to survive, go to school or own a home.

In 2004 the National Center for Education Statistics reported that by the time they graduate, more than 66 percent of college and university students will have student debt. NCEES stated that most graduate with at least \$15,000 in student loans and that many wind up with more than \$30,000 in student debt.

These figures do not include the loans parents take out to send their children to college, nor do they factor in credit card debt used to pay for books, meals and other expenses for higher education. Of the students attending college, nearly half work more than 25 hours per week.

Young people should be bailed out of the debt incurred for seeking higher education. Education from the lowest levels to vocational school, university and college is a right and should be guaranteed, without having to take out exorbitant loans. All student debt, loans, private or public and credit card debt used to pay for books or meals should be cancelled.

A path to free education has to be paved. How else can an infrastructure be put in to place for universal healthcare if there aren't the doctors, nurses or technicians because of the cost of education?

Hundreds of billions have been spent to wage war against the Iraqi people, the people of Afghanistan, in assistance to Israel which is waging a genocidal war against the Palestinian people and in propping up corrupt regimes around the world for U.S. interests. These wars are not in the interests of oppressed and working people in the U.S.

Hundreds of billions more have been spent to bail out banks, other financial institutions and the auto makers.

The money spent on the bail outs and on war is money that could be spent for actual needs, especially in this time of crisis. For instance, the \$700 billion used for the Troubled Assets and Relief Program could have paid off all student debt, which is over \$300 billion or could have been used to provide universal healthcare for six years.

It is a pitched workers struggle that is needed--one in solidarity with all peoples, putting together a program for working people, not for the rich and super rich. Youth are needed at the frontlines, to help fight for the better world they will inherit. We urge you to get involved, help mobilize youth and students to converge on Wall Street and shake the foundations of the Financial District with our feet and our vociferous voices.

Let's seize the time and act now.